


# CCT

Fall 2019

Columbia  
College  
Today 

## CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL

A CORE Q&A WITH  
PRESIDENT BOLLINGER

## Y.A.'S QUEEN

TEEN-LIT AUTHOR MELISSA  
DE LA CRUZ '93 IS TOPPING  
THE BESTSELLER LISTS

## MEET ME AT THE PLAZA

DIG INTO A JUICY READ  
ABOUT NEW YORK'S  
MOST FAMOUS HOTEL



# DAMON WINTER '97 FINDS THE LIGHT

The Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist  
considers the decade after "Hope and Change"





*"My favorite work from the Core was Plato's Republic.  
It helped me to learn how to think (still working on it!)."*  
- John W. Lombardo M.D. CC'69

*"The Core has been a huge part of my everyday life.  
It exposed me to a lifetime's worth of enjoyment of the  
classics, philosophy and art."*  
- Ian Hartstein CC'85

## What's Your Core Story?

Share a fun memory, favorite Core work or personal reflection and be part of our community memory project to honor the Core Curriculum's Centennial. Submit online or email us your #CoreStories and join us this year for our #CoreCelebration.



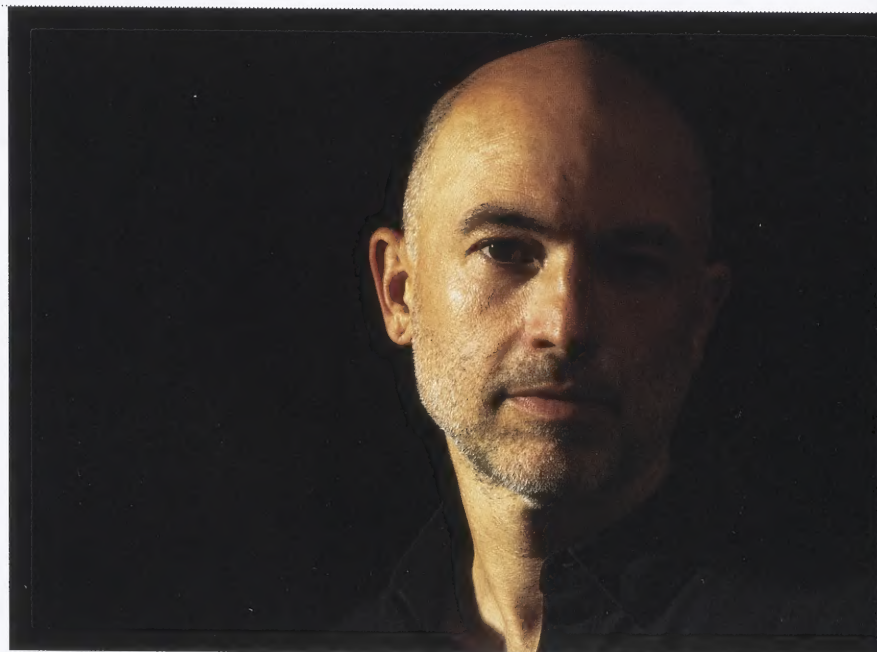
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Now on **CCT Online**



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### THE LATEST

#### TAKE FIVE | JULY 12

"[My favorite spot on campus] wasn't the Sundial or the library; it was the darkened room in which any given art history class took place. Spending an hour with nothing to do but contemplate the beauty of paintings was church, psychotherapy and Valium all in one."

— Crime fiction writer  
**Charles Philipp Martin '76**

#### LION'S DEN | JUNE 20

"I'm really good at reading. I know that sounds like a weird thing to brag about. And I know that everyone who went to Columbia probably feels like they're good at reading. I know I'm not the only one who read five books a week throughout college. The problem with me is that I *liked* reading five books a week. That was a good pace for me. So I decided to continue it — for the rest of my life."

— Publisher and novelist  
**Miriam Parker '00**, from "Reading, Writing and ... Not Much Else"



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JORG MEYER



## *Within the Family*

# Happy Anniversary, Core Curriculum!

**R**oll out the sheet cake and start counting candles — we've got 100 to light for the Core Curriculum, which is celebrating its centennial this year with all due ceremony. The guest of honor needs no introduction. Generations of alumni have gotten up close and personal with the Core, gained knowledge and insight from its teachings, and had their hearts and minds opened to new ways of looking at the world.

Here at *CCT*, in this and each of the next three issues, we'll mark the milestone with features and other special content. It felt only right to begin with a conversation with President Lee C. Bollinger, who speaks powerfully to the Core's value in raising fundamental questions about life and society, and instilling habits of mind that last a lifetime. The Core may be the signature program of the College, but as he observes, its mission resonates across all the schools of the University, and has a tremendous role to play in the nation and in the world.

Other Core touches in this issue are a playful visual take on *The Odyssey*, one of the signature texts of Literature Humanities (page 4), and the launch of our Core Cartoon caption contest. This installment, on page 88, comes courtesy of the incomparable *New Yorker* illustrator Edward Koren '57. The winning caption will be announced in our Winter 2019–20 issue, with the winner receiving a print of the cartoon, signed by Koren.

We also invite you to tap into your inner muse and send us Core haiku. Your 5-7-5 stylings could be inspired by a text, a professor or any other aspect of your Core experience. A sampling from our early submissions is scattered throughout Class Notes, and more will be featured in the next three issues.

Caption contest entries and haiku both may be emailed to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu).

Outside of the Core, our cover story considers the evolving eye of photojournalist Damon Winter '97. It's been a decade since Winter won a Pulitzer Prize for his images of Barack Obama '83 on his historic presidential first campaign trail; today, as *The New York Times*'s first Op-Ed photographer, Winter is finding ways to say more with his camera than he ever thought possible. (Winter's partner, Béatrice de Géa, who specializes in editorial, documentary and portrait photography, is the talent behind our cover shoot.)

We also catch up with bestselling author Melissa de la Cruz '93, who's built an avid fan following — as we saw at this past summer's BookCon — among the young adult set. The prolific de la Cruz talks to us about her career in vampires, Disney villains and dystopian themes (to name just a few of her subjects!), and speaks to why she's become such an ardent ambassador for the YA genre.

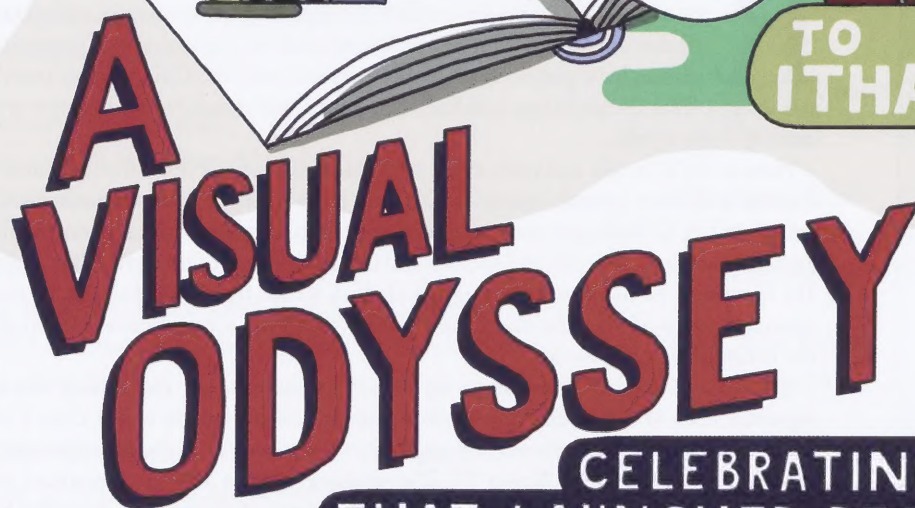
Speaking of books, for a double dose of juiciness, check out the "Columbia Forum" excerpt from Julie Satow '96, SIPA'01's new release, *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel*, and our "Bookshelf" feature about Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman '03, SOA'09. The latter played for four years in a professional classical musical ensemble that gave faked concerts. It's a jaw dropper of a tale.

Welcome, to all our new parents reading *CCT* for the first time. And to everyone else, welcome back — that fall feeling never changes; a new semester is under way!

*Alexis Boncy*

Alexis Boncy SOA'11  
Editor-in-Chief





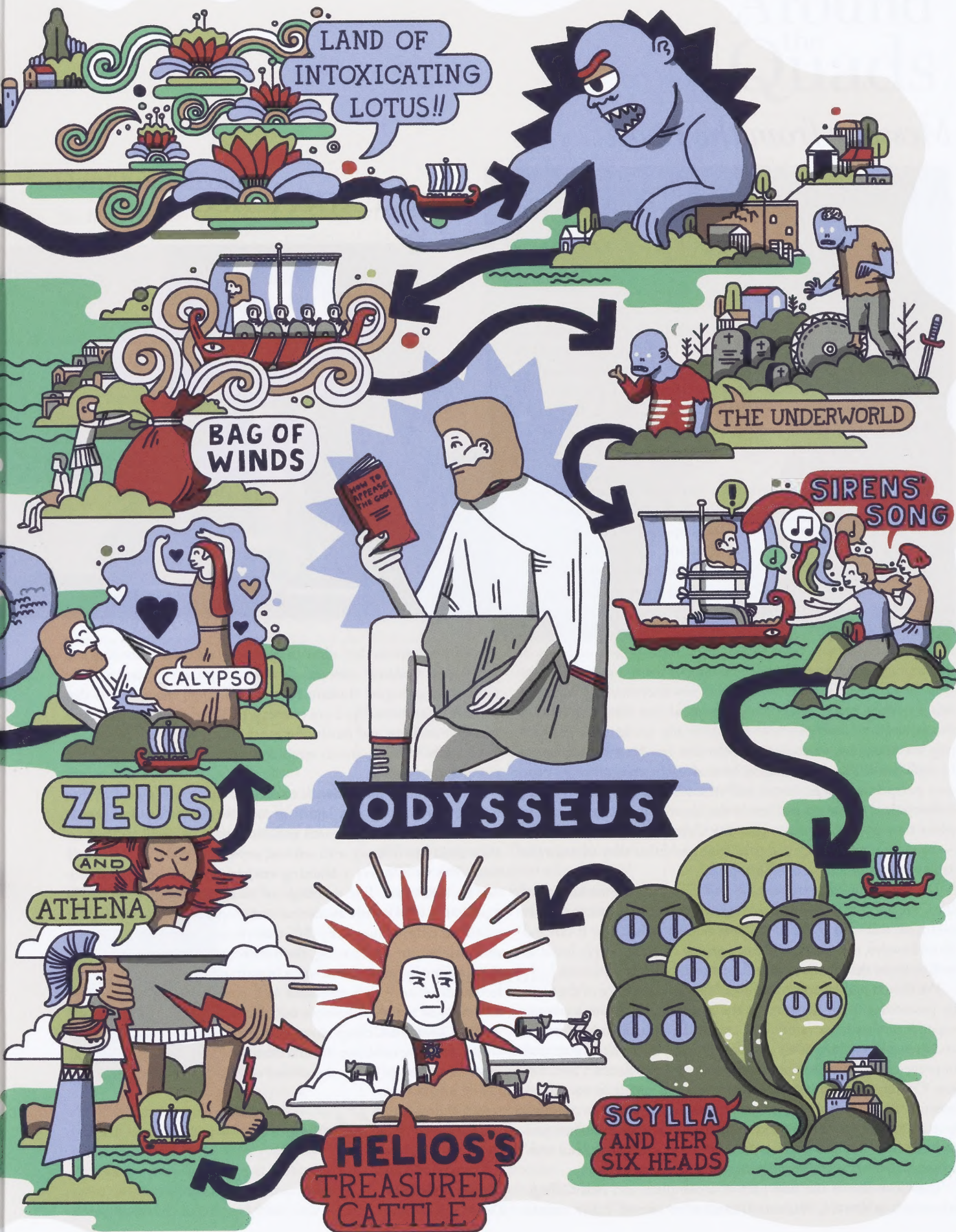
# A VISUAL ODYSSEY

CELEBRATING THE BOOK  
THAT LAUNCHED DECADES  
OF CORE CONVERSATION

ILLUSTRATION BY  
JAMES GULLIVER HANCOCK









## Message from the Dean

# A Century of Shared Intellectual Experience

**T**his issue of *Columbia College Today* is the first in Volume 47 of our alumni magazine. More significantly, it is the first issue published in the 100th anniversary year of the Core Curriculum. Many things make Columbia College special, but the Core is the most special. The Core is not just a collection of required courses; it is also central to the identity of Columbia College and the expression of our ideals. So the Core — its past, present and future — is quite appropriately our focus this year. In this issue of *CCT*, you'll find a variety of features that might remind you of the Core's promise to all undergraduates, as well as invite you to revisit the unifying role the Core plays in the lives of so many former students.

I believe the Core is the greatest communal, organized, general education effort in the world. Each year, the entire first-year and sophomore classes study in the Core, engaging with hundreds of instructors, thousands of pages of text, and countless discussions and debates. There is nothing on a scale like it anywhere else.

The endurance of the Core conveys our conviction that there are certain things that every educated person should have exposure to. When our students are exposed to fundamental, and often difficult, ideas, there is value in both knowing the ideas' origins and also in developing a response and understanding of them that is shaped by who they are, who surrounds them and how they view the world. In this way, the Core is always the same and always changing. Always the same in its clear objective to expose our students to philosophy, literature, art, music and science that has been consequential in civilization. Always changing because each student brings their own perspectives, experiences and values into a rich and dynamic conversation, where no one leaves the classroom quite the same as when they entered. In that sense the Core is always experimental — trying out new things and then seeing whether they advance the achievements of its timeless objectives.

During this centennial year, we will look back on the history of the Core and how it evolved during the last century. Just as importantly, we will look ahead to the next century to ask how it can and should evolve, examining the components that are deeply loved as well as those that are questioned and constructively criticized.

We should look to enhance and enrich the experience of the Core by preserving those elements of the curriculum and the academic experience that have value now, and will continue to have value, and then adding things that are made possible by developments and improvements in technology and pedagogy. The entire Core, not just Contemporary Civilization, must remain timely in its implementation so that its persistent objectives can be met. We continue to examine the eternal joys and challenges of human existence, and to learn how humans express those joys and challenges, and how societies of every scale have developed in response to them.

The Core also is the first part of a complete and rich College education; afterward, students transition to one of many majors



and concentrations that allow them to explore their individual and specialized academic interests. By enhancing the experience of the Core we also prepare students for the intellectual engagements that become their focus. The Core creates a tradition of close interaction between students and faculty for every year a student is an undergraduate here, in classroom seminars, in labs and in undergraduate research programs.

Our goal as an institution is to prepare students for a world that neither they nor we can know or conceive. What we do know is that their success — personal and professional — will depend on their ability to interact with anyone, anywhere in the world, at any time. The Core offers a learning environment where that ability can be developed. This exchange of ideas helps students develop a profound level of self-awareness and empathy, and deepens their understanding of humanity. So many recent events in the world show us that the questioning, the intellectual openness of the Core Curriculum, has never been more important. It is a common intellectual experience that gives rise to a powerful sense of community, not just between students, but also with all of you, our almost 52,000 Columbia College alumni.

And so, as we celebrate the first century of this shared intellectual experience, we say: On to the second century!

**James J. Valentini**  
Dean



## Hamilton Medal

The 2019 Alexander Hamilton Medal will go to Dr. George Yancopoulos '80, GSAS'86, PS'87, president of and chief scientific officer at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, a leading biotechnology company based in New York. Yancopoulos has built and managed Regeneron alongside Dr. Leonard Schleifer since 1989, a year after the company's founding. Yancopoulos is a principal inventor, along with key members of his team, of Regeneron's seven FDA-approved drugs and foundational technologies; he also is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and has been on the Regeneron Board of Directors since 2001. Regeneron's work targets a variety of conditions, including macular degeneration, cancer, high cholesterol and arthritis.

The son of Greek immigrants, Yancopoulos grew up in Queens and graduated from Bronx Science. He was honored with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2013.

The Hamilton Medal is the highest honor awarded to a member of the Columbia College community, and recognizes distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor. The 72nd annual dinner will take place on Thursday, November 21, in Low Rotunda.



EILEEN BARROSO

## CCT Gets the Gold!

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has awarded *CCT* a Gold Circle of Excellence Award in the "Writing, Feature Writing, Column or Opinion Piece" category for Paul Starr '70's feature, "How the '68



Uprising Looks Today," half of our two-part Spring 2018 cover story, "50 Years Later."

The judges said: "Starr offers an excellent journalistic analysis of

the 1968 uprising at Columbia, drawing parallels with protests on campuses and across U.S. cities today. Fifty years on, he tells the story in a way that makes it seem timely and topical ... the piece also draws readers in to contend with their

own perspectives and actions relative to activism and free speech."

The Circle of Excellence Awards honor outstanding work in advancement services, alumni relations, communications, fundraising and marketing at colleges, universities, independent schools and affiliated nonprofits. This year, upward of 2,800 entries were submitted across 100 categories. Read our winning article at [college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring18](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring18).

## Core Centennial

A year of celebration in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum will kick off with a special event on Friday, September 27, in Low Rotunda. Attendees can come for all or part of the opening day, which will feature refreshments, talks and activities. The festivities start at 9 a.m. with remarks from President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini.

A "Core Stories" panel will follow, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., with Core

faculty and alumni reflecting on their Core experiences. There will also be breakfast, a historical exhibit, and an opportunity to take photos or shoot a video at the Core Storytelling booth.

A panel on the "Enduring Core," with the current Core faculty chairs, is slated from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The heads of Literature Humanities, Contemporary Civilization, Art Humanities, Music Humanities and Frontiers of Science will discuss both the Core's enduring relevance and its distinction from other undergraduate approaches to education. Midday refreshments will be available.

Attendees must RSVP to secure a space at this limited-seating event. For more information, and to register, go to [college.columbia.edu/alumni](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni).

In addition, alumni are invited throughout the year to participate in a community memory project, Core Stories, which aims to give voice to the experience and impact of the Core. Reflections, memories and more may be shared at [core100.columbia.edu](http://core100.columbia.edu).



# The Woman Who First Crashed the College Gates

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90

**W**hen it was announced in January 1982, following years of intense, even hostile, negotiations with

Barnard, that Columbia College would admit women, a certain doctor of dental medicine thought, "It's about time!"

That doctor was Anna Kornbrot SEAS'74, '75. Uniquely, she was already the College's first alumna — eight years before the coeducational floodgates were opened.

"I don't wear a sign," Kornbrot says 44 years later. "I don't need validation. But I do feel it deeply."

In the early 1970s, "women's lib" was exploding. Bras were burning, the Equal Rights Amendment was white-hot and the fairer sex wanted a fairer shake at all-male bastions of higher learning. "I was politically attuned," Kornbrot says. "I did have my ERA T-shirt." Enrolled in

Columbia Engineering, she read the work of feminist scholar Catharine Stimpson, with whom she took classes at Barnard.

But Kornbrot, the daughter of Polish Holocaust survivors who settled as garment workers in Flushing, didn't see herself as a trailblazer. Rather, she was after a healthy dose of liberal arts. "I valued my education so much that I wanted to get as much out of it as possible," she recalls. "I didn't want just math and science."

She got her wish through a loophole in the undergraduate degree options. During junior year, she noticed in her course catalog something called a 4:1 program. Under this arrangement, an Engineering student could earn a B.S. in four years and, with enough liberal arts credits — including the four basic Core Curriculum courses — also graduate with a College B.A. a year later. Nowhere was it written that women were ineligible.

So Kornbrot walked into 208 Hamilton Hall, armed with the relevant passage. "The secretary looked at the catalog, looked at me, and said, 'I think the dean is going to want to talk with you.'"

A minor kerfuffle ensued. "We would have to build you a separate gym!" fretted Provost Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53. Various administrators suggested that Kornbrot get her B.A. from Barnard.

Kornbrot's most memorable sit-down was with Dean Peter Pouncey and Associate Dean Michael Rosenthal GSAS'67. "Pouncey took a diabolical delight in the whole thing," she says. "You could see the wheels turning about how he would deal with Barnard." (For years, that school's administrators had resisted College coeducation, fearing among other reasons that its applications would suffer, perhaps fatally.)

Rosenthal was another matter. "It was an interrogation. He was poking at me," Kornbrot says. "He said things like, 'Are

you looking to disrupt the University?' Now, I'm a patient person, but he pushed my buttons. So I finally said, 'Yes, I want to disrupt the University!' Pouncey was laughing his head off."

(Asked to recall the conversation, Rosenthal, chuckling, thinks he may simply have been needling Kornbrot. "If she has those memories, what can I say? But it's inconceivable that that was me. We were delighted at the prospect of being able to pull the rug out from under Barnard's intransigence.")

The anticlimax came in a letter dated June 13, 1974. Columbia College admissions director Michael Lacopo wrote to Kornbrot, "I am delighted to inform you that a joint committee representing the School of Engineering and the College has granted your request for transfer to the College beginning September 1974."

With her Engineering B.S. in hand, Kornbrot began her single year in the College amid little fanfare. "I wasn't looking for anything other than a seat in the classroom and to just do my thing. I savored every one of those courses." The finale was Class Day, when the 5-foot-2 Kornbrot marched up to receive her diploma. "You could see people's eyes watching this procession and then all of a sudden you saw all these double takes: 'Is this a short guy with really long hair?'"

Kornbrot's 4:1 loophole was almost immediately amended so that female applicants would be admitted exclusively to Barnard. One other woman, Ann Candy — now Dr. Ann Stein — was grandfathered in, earning an Engineering B.S. and a College B.A., both in 1978.

Kornbrot went on to dental school at the University of Pennsylvania where, in her fourth year, two of her male classmates — but not she — were granted interviews for a residency program in oral and



Kornbrot's yearbook photo from the 1975 *Columbian*.



maxillofacial surgery. She complained to the dean, who told her, “You’re absolutely right. You are being discriminated against.” Once I picked my jaw up off the floor, I said, “Now what?” Following determined lobbying, she got her residency.

Today, Kornbrot (who earned a D.M.D. in 1979) practices in Philadelphia and teaches at both Penn and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. “I like surgery,” she

says. “It’s hands on. It’s discrete. You have a problem, you solve the problem and you move on to the next patient.”

A footnote: Kornbrot was unsure what she was going to do if the College wouldn’t admit her. “I really wanted to go,” she says. “But how far was I willing to go? Was I willing to go to court? Would I sue the University? All this stuff was swimming through my head.”

Her husband-to-be, Barry Klayman ’74, suggested she consult a particular professor at the Law School. “I asked her, ‘What are my options? What are my chances?’ She said, ‘Schools have so much discretion in who they can take. Don’t pursue it. You won’t get in.’”

The professor was future Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW’59.

## StudentSpotlight

# Santiago Tobar Potes ’20

**CCT:** What’s something interesting you learned recently?

**Potes:** I’ve been taking cognitive neuroscience just out of interest. Neuroscientists believe we have two types of decision-making systems: One of them is very old — it allowed our type of humans to survive; it’s intuitive, and processes information and reaches conclusions quickly. The other is a newer type of decision-making system — it’s slower and more rational. I find that so interesting because I feel that one of society’s biggest issues is dealing with both of these decision-making systems; one that helped us as a species and the other that’s helping us to adapt to new conditions.

## fast facts

**Major:** No major, two concentrations: East Asian Languages and Cultures, and Medieval and Renaissance Studies

**Hometown:** Born in Cali, Colombia, but moved to Miami at 3 and grew up there.

**Favorite spot on campus:** The Reference Room in Butler Library. “There’s a quotation on it that says, ‘A man is but what he knoweth,’ and I look at that and think about the reason why I’m here. It’s beautiful in itself and it’s a beautiful reminder of why I’m here, despite the odds — I’m the first person in my family to go to college.”

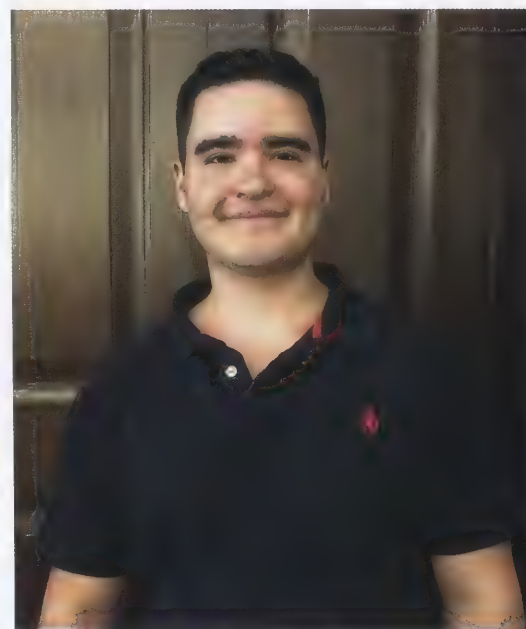
**CCT:** What’s your favorite Core reading so far, and why?

**Potes:** Augustine’s *Confessions* and Dante’s *Divine Comedy*. I love *Confessions* because I’ve been thinking a lot lately about what I love — it’s helping me to develop my own value system. Augustine says you should only love things that are eternal, you should only love things that will never change, things that you won’t stop loving in a year, in a month. Now that I’m in my last year of college I have a clear vision of what I like, so now I’m asking myself *why* I like these things.

I was so touched by Dante’s *Inferno* in Lit Hum that I’ve been taking a yearlong class in which we read the entire *Divine Comedy*. It’s taught by Teodolinda Barolini, and she has been the most impactful teacher I’ve ever had. The text speaks to me because of what it represents: meeting different people, learning from them, improving yourself from what you’ve learned and keeping on with progress.

**CCT:** What do you like to do outside of class?

**Potes:** I started playing the violin when I was 11 after hearing a radio show on NPR; I remember hearing the sound, and being so captivated by it. I’ve been in the Columbia University Orchestra since freshman year. Last semester I was in two chamber ensembles — one a string quartet and the other a piano trio.



**CCT:** How do you like to take advantage of being in New York City?

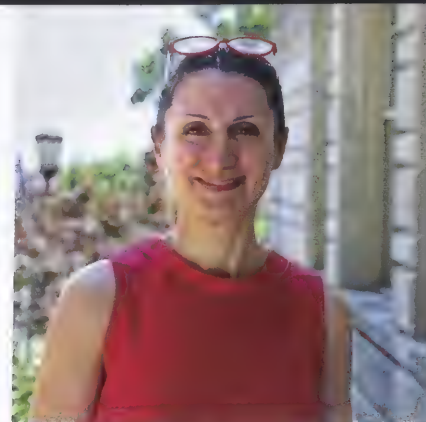
**Potes:** I love New York City so much, and the relationship it has with Columbia. I’ve been very lucky to be mentored by some great alumni. The fact that the city has the highest number of alumni is also why where we are is so incredible — I can schedule a coffee meeting in between classes and take the subway to talk to so many people. It’s not just that New York is our classroom; New York is also a university unto itself.



LookWho'sTalking

# Niamh O'Brien

## Senior Associate Dean, Alumni and Undergraduate Career Development, Center for Career Education



KILLIAN YOUNG / COLUMBIA COLLEGE

You've been with the University since 2003, starting at SIPA, but transitioned to the Center for Career Education 12-plus years ago. What drew you to the role?

I was drawn to and continue to love working with undergraduates as they embark on their career journeys; explore their identities, interests and career opportunities; and pursue and reflect upon their experiences with us at CCE. The joy continues as we work with alumni to help them progress in their career journeys beyond Columbia.

What's your typical day?

My day starts very early, with the sunrise. Over breakfast, I check the University website for the latest news and the events page for pop-up concerts, lectures or yoga classes that I can join. My work day also starts very early, with email catch-up and a review of my calendar. I typically have meetings with students and collaborative work with my team members and/or colleagues around the University. I'll also deal with unexpected needs as they arise.

How have students' attitudes and approaches to "career" shifted in your time as associate dean, and what are some of the ways that CCE is meeting students' needs today?

Rapid changes in technology have shifted how students prepare for the future of work. We want them to be ready for and opti-

mistic about jobs that might not yet be defined, so we emphasize exploration through counseling, tools and programming, to build self-awareness around interests and their sense of agency in deciding their futures. Career resilience is also a skill that we foster through our individual and group work with students. We also keep them abreast of recruitment trends through our programming and our "In the Know" blog posts. We are also lucky to have incredible alumni who collaborate with us to share their stories and advice with students.

What resource(s) do you wish more alumni would take advantage of, and why?

Making and maintaining connections are key pursuits whether you are launching or progressing in your career. We encourage alumni to reach out to other alumni, and to join alumni clubs, our Columbia Career Connections group and/or the Columbia University group on LinkedIn.

What's one thing about yourself that would surprise readers?

Many people struggle with my name and are surprised that the "mh" is pronounced "v" so my name sounds like Neave and is spelled Niamh. The name Niamh is from Irish mythology. She was daughter of the god of the sea and one of the queens of Tír na nÓg, the land of eternal youth.

### DidYouKnow?

## One of Columbia's Oldest Known Trees Was a Gift from the New York Botanical Garden



SCOTT RUDD

**N**athaniel Lord Britton SEAS 1879, a Columbia professor of botany and a co-founder, along with his wife, Elizabeth Gertrude Britton, of the New York Botanical Garden, was instrumental in acquiring one of the Morningside campus's oldest known trees. Britton was in charge of Columbia's botany department and herbarium in the late 1800s and became

the first director of the NYBG in 1891. Columbia donated its herbarium and many of its botany books to the garden in Britton's honor when the campus moved uptown in 1897. It is thought that to reciprocate the gift, the garden gave Columbia a tree for its new campus — the spindle tree (*Euonymus bungeanus*) that grows on the lawn to the left as you face Hamilton Hall.





Let's Roar in the '20s at  
next year's Columbia Reunion!

# Reunion 2020



**Save the Date for Columbia Reunion Weekend  
June 4–6, 2020**

All alumni are invited, with special events for milestone  
years that end in '0 or '5 or who are 2019.

[college.columbia.edu/reunion](http://college.columbia.edu/reunion)  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)



# ROAR, LION, ROAR

## A Football Player's Family Secret

**S**id Luckman '39's rise from schoolboy football phenom in Brooklyn to All-American quarterback at Columbia to a 14-year career with pro football's Chicago Bears is only part of the story told by R.D. Rosen in his new book, *Tough Luck: Sid Luckman, Murder, Inc., and the Rise of the Modern NFL*. While Sid was climbing to stardom, his father, Meyer Luckman, was being convicted of the gangland murder of his own brother-in-law and sentenced to 20-years-to-life in Sing Sing, where he died in 1944. How could this tale of celebrity son and mobster father go untold for eight decades? Former CCT Editor-in-Chief Alex Sachare '71 spoke with Rosen in July to get the story behind the book, which was published by Atlantic Monthly Press in September.

**CCT:** You grew up across the street from Sid Luckman '39 in Highland Park, Ill. Is that what drew you to write about him?

**Rosen:** The book is deeply rooted in my experience of being a Bears fan and knowing that the great Bears quarterback lived across the street from where I played touch football fairly obsessively. A couple of years ago I was on my computer, looking for any films of Sid in the Bears' championship games. I love sports history, and being able to see what he had done was exciting for me.



Author R.D. Rosen

ERIK LIEBER

**CCT:** Was Meyer's story what convinced you that there was a book to be written?

**Rosen:** Absolutely. When sports writer and author Dan Daly told me Sid's father had murdered his brother-in-law, I couldn't believe it. I was surprised the story hadn't been told in full. So I did it, because Sid deserves a book about himself. He had prevented anybody from digging too deeply. Remember, it wasn't until [former baseball player]

Jim Bouton wrote *Ball Four: The Final Pitch* in 1970 that players' private lives became fair game for journalists.

**CCT:** Take us back to the 1930s, when Sid was making headlines as a football star at Brooklyn's Erasmus Hall H.S. and his father was making headlines of his own.

**Rosen:** It may be unique in the annals of history that a father and son were making headlines in the same town at the same time for such wildly different reasons. As Sid was leaving Erasmus and going to Columbia, he had to sit in a courtroom and hear about his father's vicious murder of his uncle.



CCT ARCHIVES

Sid Luckman '39 in his Lions football days.

**CCT:** Tell us what happened that led to Meyer's arrest.

**Rosen:** Meyer, who at the time was about 60, and his brother ran a trucking company in Brooklyn that delivered flour to bakeries. In those days, if you wanted to be in business you had to play ball with the mob. Meyer had a brother-in-law, Sam Drukman, who had a gambling problem, but he was family so Meyer hired him anyway. But after a while Meyer became convinced Drukman was skimming from the business to pay gambling debts and decided to do something about it. Why he didn't get the mob to take care of it for him, I don't know, but he chose to do it himself, with two accomplices. They lured Drukman to the company on a Sunday night and strangled him.



**CCT:** Do you think it's more than coincidence that Sid played for coaches who became father figures?

**Rosen:** Paul Sullivan at Erasmus really was a fatherly guy. As far as Lou Little at Columbia, Sid was drawn to him immediately, and they did establish a father-son relationship. George Halas of the Bears was no one's idea of a warm and fuzzy father figure, but he convinced Sid to play pro and then became very protective of him.

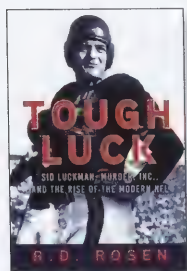
**CCT:** What new insight about Sid did you glean from writing this book?

**Rosen:** I would speculate that Sid compensated for his father's crime. And when I talked with his children and heard stories about his kindness and generosity, it really jumped out at me how on some subconscious level he devoted his life to being above reproach.

**CCT:** What was the biggest obstacle you encountered in this project?

**Rosen:** Sid died in 1998 and left no records. The family was ruled, in a sense, by the silent secret, and by Sid's refusal to be written about. I went to his son, Bob Luckman, and said, I used to live across the street from you and I'd like to write a book about your dad. When I told him the book

would have to be about his grandfather, too, he said, "Oh, Sid wouldn't like that." I said, "Your father was a great man, a great historical figure, but you can't get that book unless it's also about your grandfather. That's just the deal."



**CCT:** Given the family reluctance, did you consider backing away?

**Rosen:** Yes. I thought about that a lot. At what point does it become morally OK to share a family's horrible secret? I've written other books in which I've had to convince people it was in their best interest to talk, and I took the tack with the Luckman kids that it's better I write this book than someone else. Of course, if Sid were alive, you and I wouldn't be talking. He had some powerful friends who would have come to me and said, "Mr. Rosen, we strongly suggest you find a different topic to write about," and that would be it.



GEORGE ALLEN / COURTESY COLUMBIA LIBRARIES

Columbia takes on Amherst College in a 1920 game on South Field.

## Cheering Columbia Football

Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library is marking the 150th anniversary of college football this fall with "Roar, Lion, Roar: A Celebration of Columbia Football" ([library.columbia.edu](http://library.columbia.edu); select "Exhibitions" below "Events & Training"). Running until December 20 in the RBML's Chang Octagon, the exhibition features materials from the University Archives showcasing highlights of the Lions program — one of the oldest in the country — from its 1870 inception to the present.

The exhibition covers Columbia football's early days (including an early 20th-century ban of the game) and most famed victories (among them the 1934 Rose Bowl victory and 1947 win over Army). It also addresses the 1970s teams that played under Coach Bill Campbell '62, TC'64; the 1980s losing streak; the winning 1996 team; and the renaissance helmed by Head Coach Al Bagnoli. In addition, the exhibition highlights the coaches and players who have made a mark on Columbia football. Historic photographs, programs and memorabilia all will be on display.

## Speaking of Football ...

Mark your calendar for Columbia Homecoming 2019, Friday, October 18–Saturday, October 19. The big game takes place on Saturday, vs. Penn, with kickoff at 1:30 p.m. Come early for the annual Homecoming Lunch & Lawn Party, a family-friendly event with food, drinks and games, hosted by the Columbia College Alumni Association.

The CCAA is also offering a pair of new Homecoming events: a Friday evening student/alumni picnic on the lawn in front of Butler Library, and a Saturday night after-party for young alumni at Hudson Terrace. All events are ticketed; for more



Keep tabs on all the Lions news! For the latest, download the Columbia Athletics app or visit [gocolumbialions.com](http://gocolumbialions.com).

information and to purchase tickets for the CCAA events, or packages of event and game tickets together, go to [college.columbia.edu/alumni/homecoming](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/homecoming). Tickets for just the game may be purchased separately at [gocolumbialions.com](http://gocolumbialions.com).



# FINDING THE LIGHT

BY BORIS KACHKA '97, JRN'98



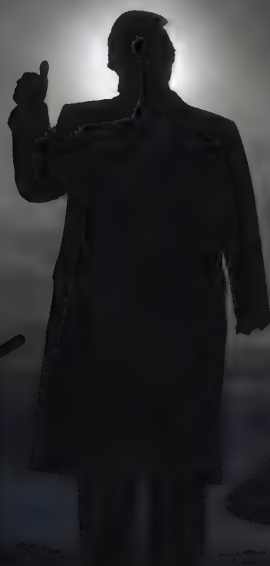
BÉATRICE DE GÉA



President Barack  
Obama '83 at JFK  
International Airport,  
Queens, N.Y.;  
October 18, 2012.



**A DECADE AFTER “HOPE AND CHANGE” — AND A PULITZER PRIZE —  
PHOTOJOURNALIST DAMON WINTER '97 FEELS FREER THAN EVER BEFORE**



Donald Trump at a  
campaign event in  
Dubuque, Iowa;  
January 30, 2016.



**W**hat do you do after “Hope and Change” gives way to fear and loathing?

For photojournalist Damon Winter '97, the question wasn't just political; it went to the core of his life and work. After joining *The New York Times* in 2007, where he quickly earned a reputation for marrying expert technique with vivid storytelling, Winter went on the road with candidate Barack Obama '83 and brought home the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. His indelible campaign pictures — of Obama pointing at a cloud, or greeting ecstatic children or addressing thousands as rain, sweat and tears coursed down his face — immortalized that season of light for the paper of record.

Ten years later, having covered Obama's more earth-bound reelection run, war in Afghanistan, devastation in Haiti and the 2016 campaign of Donald Trump, Winter would be forgiven for feeling sentimental about those earlier, sunnier days. But he doesn't. When he revisits the photos that made his career, he sees work that is “naïve”

and “simplistic.” In the years that followed, he says, “I felt like I had a little more to say.”

The moment that really made him reassess his earlier work shouldn't surprise anyone who follows the news. The election of a President who doubled as Media Basher-in-Chief led the press to ask itself hard questions: What had they missed about the American voter? How could they defend themselves while remaining above the fray? How could they maintain an objective posture when so much of what the government was saying was objectively false? The dilemma was not limited to writers. We like to say the camera doesn't lie, but that doesn't mean it has no point of view. Photographers were no more immune to the jeers of MAGA crowds or the candidate himself than the rest of the press pack. Having borne it for months, Winter emerged from 2016 with “this feeling of futility” that he couldn't shake.

Ultimately, that feeling has hardened him against nostalgia; it's also left him freer to say more with his cameras than he'd ever thought possible. He's traveled a journey

**President Obama  
boards Air Force  
One at Boston's  
Logan Airport;  
June 26, 2012.**



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY DAMON WINTER '97 / THE NEW YORK TIMES





Donald and Melania Trump descend from their private jet at Wilmington International Airport, Wilmington, N.C.; November 5, 2016.

parallel to his readers — witnessing Obama's disillusionment, war and climate crisis, and a President who personifies chaos. Like many of us, including the newspaper nicknamed the "Gray Lady," he's become a digital native, a multimedia creator. He's also grown more forthright about his opinions — especially during the past year, as the first in-house photographer for the *Times's* Opinion section. He's looking toward 2020 with a mixture of excitement and dread and, as ever, an exceptionally keen eye.

**W**inter's home on the Upper West Side, which he shares with his longtime partner, photographer Béatrice de Géa, and their son, Noah, is a prewar duplex that Winter is slowly converting into a light-flooded haven of sliding doors and slatted wood. Oddly, only one photo is on display, in the bathroom. "Béa doesn't want to have to look at the same photos every single day," Winter explains, while scanning his vast portfolio on a laptop.

**We like to say the camera doesn't lie, but that doesn't mean it has no point of view.**

It may be de Géa's preference, but the lack of work on display suits Winter's reticence — a trait not normally associated with photojournalists (one colleague calls him "a silent assassin"). He started shooting pictures as an undergrad with a camera his mother gave him for his birthday, and

fell instantly in love. He'd had an interest in environmental science, but says he's never fit into any field or clique: "It's a sort of personal feeling that I'm an outsider." On our first meeting, he'd apologized in advance for being an uninteresting subject, and here in his home, he seems reluctant to pick his favorite photos, which was kind of the point of the visit.

Winter even casts his success as a lucky break. "It really is the beauty of photography that initially drew me to it," he says. But "I don't think I'm creative or crazy enough to live off the wiles of my own mind ... I was

just extremely lucky to have stumbled into photojournalism." After the College, he worked at the *Dallas Morning News* and other papers before landing at the *Los Angeles Times*, where he was a Pulitzer finalist in 2005 for a photo essay on victims of sexual abuse in Alaska.

Two years later, *The New York Times* poached him, as part of a larger drive to give the paper more visual flair. "He has a real vision," says *New York Times* deputy picture editor Beth Flynn. "When you look at an image made by Damon, it has all the ele-

ments that an image should have — light, composition — but it has the Damon Winter vision attached to it." After he won the Pulitzer, he drew intensive feature assignments around the world.

Winter was up for those adventures — most of the time. In his living room, he shows me a picture of troops evacuating a gravely injured soldier in Afghanistan; a helicopter downdraft throws sepia-toned dust over stoic soldiers, recalling iconic war photos like the Iwo Jima flag planting. Winter had had to walk through a minefield, and saw a tech lose his legs — knowing he might be next. "This is before I had Noah and realized it wasn't worth it," he says.

But after dodging mines on the battlefield, Winter caught flak from his peers. In order to capture the intimacy of life on the base, he took some pictures with a phone and a Hipstamatic filter (the precursor to Instagram), breaking *Times* precedent against digital tweaks. He addressed the backlash from purists in a long post on the paper's Lens blog, arguing that it was the right tool for the job. "We are being naïve," he wrote, "if we think aesthetics do not play an important role in the way photojournalists tell a story. We are not walking photocopiers. We are storytellers."

In 2010, Winter spent many months visiting Haiti after its catastrophic earthquake, working on a series of stories that allowed the *Times* to transcend the grief tourism typical of disaster coverage. He sought "a way for people to connect, not just to be shocked or to get information, but to feel empathy for people who have gone through something really horrific." Some of his work captures the carnage and raw grief, but his favorite picture is of a girl walking uphill in silhouette, a full water-cooler jug on her head. It's not about mourning or poverty, but the Sisyphean task of recovery. "I felt

Pfc. David Gedert stands in a beam of sunlight as he puts on his combat gear in Kunduz, Afghanistan; October 11, 2010.







**Eridiant Joseph collapses in grief after discovering his sister's body in the rubble from a 7.0 earthquake in Port Au Prince, Haiti; January 25, 2010.**

like a different person when I came back," Winter says. "I felt like I had done something worthwhile."

By comparison, the next campaign was anticlimactic. The tone of Obama's 2012 run was typified by a photo rich with subtext, in which the President speaks to a crowd: The glass of the teleprompter in front of him reflects an arrangement of flowers, while up in the sky — in the real world — storm clouds gather. After Winter compiled his coverage into a photo essay headlined "A Face More Careworn, a Crowd Less Joyful," White House press secretary Jay Carney complained to a colleague of Winter's: "Who the fuck is Damon Winter and why is he such a terrible writer?" Winter laughed it off. "It reinforced the fact that I was never his photographer," he says.

Winter's next campaign made the skirmishes of 2012 seem quaint. Discussing assignments in 2015, he'd told photo editor Jennifer Dimson he wanted to cover Trump. "I think he was interested in the challenge," says Dimson. "Nobody knew what kind of campaign it would be." One of Winter's colleagues, *Times* White House photographer Douglas Mills, believes he just knew a rich subject when he saw one. "Barack

Obama was the most photogenic President," says Mills, "but Donald Trump is the most iconic."

Consider one of Winter's most memorable shots (below): Trump stands in front of a murky American flag, every part of him obscured except a shock of that strange hair and a brightly lit hand pointing like a raised gun. Winter had been trapped for hours behind barricades along with dozens of other journalists, heckled by the crowd and ignored by hostile staff. "You're stuck in this pen," Winter says, "and you have time to really contemplate: 'What is it that I want to say? What can I

**Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Greensboro, N.C.; June 14, 2016.**





do within the confines of this situation?” This particular situation was both more confined and more chaotic than usual, but the constraints worked to Winter’s advantage. He saw a fuzzy shadow — probably another reporter’s phone — obscuring most of Trump’s face, and started clicking and adjusting, knowing not only what the perfect picture would look like, but also what it would convey: “These sort of iconic big grand gestures that he makes, and his iconic hair — but there was nothing underneath.”

It was the kind of work that made even seasoned Washington photojournalists ask themselves, *How’d he do that?* “He just sees things differently,” says Mills. “Everyone is looking for the right face, but Damon found a spot in the light, and turned a well-lit photograph into a silhouette.” Mills is on a text chain with

photojournalists, and the day before he spoke to me, one of them had linked to a Winter photo of Mitch McConnell and captioned it, “DAMON. AGAIN.”

For all the groundbreaking work, covering Trump took a psychic toll on Winter. De Géa noticed a shift in her partner’s moods; on his rare visits home from the trail, she told him he had the same “PTSD look” in his eyes he’d had after Afghanistan. “I would be angry and impatient,” Winter recalls. “You’re being mistreated by the people running the campaign, by the supporters and then by the candidate, and witnessing this shift in the mood in the country that

you didn’t really understand ... At least in Afghanistan there were long lulls in between the really intense stuff.”

He stuck with it, literally, to the bitter end. Winter’s favorite photo from the campaign was one of his last. On election night, Trump campaign staffers, never expecting to actually win, got precipitously drunk. Around 4 a.m., a woman cut her bare foot on the shard of a wine glass, leaving a trail of blood on a MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN poster. Winter started shooting the poster, and staffers berated him. “I said something back, like, ‘This is a really important picture,’” he says, laughing. “I felt like it really told the story of what had happened that night and what was to come.” In the end, it never ran. “The editors thought it was too provocative.”

It wasn’t just the existential crisis of the new administration that left Winter feeling adrift in 2017. The *Times* photo department was also going through a shakeup, which temporarily left staff photographers unsure of their

beats and assignments. “It was easy to get lost in the shuffle,” Winter says. But then, in 2018, some good luck came his way. The Opinion Page had been looking to expand its online presence, and one idea was to assign a dedicated staff photographer to give it a coherent style and exclusive material. Winter’s photo essays were already straying into editorial waters, so why not loan him out?

The timing was perfect, not just for Winter but also for a paper trying to keep pace with the world. Old-school editorial pages, with their godlike tone and throwaway photos, could never compete in an online ecosystem of hot takes and visual flash. In order to build digital subscriptions after years of giving away content, newspapers have been forced to both grab browsers’ attention and earn their loyalty by distinguishing themselves from clickbait. Winter’s dynamic photography is leading the way on both fronts.

Winter’s first Opinion assignment was “sort of right up my alley,” he says — an eye-catching series of double-



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; December 19, 2018.





**Reflection of Fair Bluff, N.C., in stagnant floodwater after a succession of "once in a lifetime" hurricanes; September 24, 2018.**

exposed portraits of transgender people, their bodies superimposed with artifacts of their lives. This kind of impressionistic trickery was "so different from what we generally do for a newspaper," he says. Another creative foray was an essay about a perpetually flooded North Carolina town. Looking at his photos, it takes a minute to realize that every single one is a reflection — an underwater image of buildings or streets shot through stagnant floodwaters and flipped over. It was uncharted territory both aesthetically and thematically: art in the op-ed pages.

Shooting photos to accompany opinion pieces also meant grappling with writers' points of view. Sometimes Winter was fully aligned with them; other times he

layered on his own take. He's done both while working with the somewhat controversial writer Bari Weiss '07. Last year, he shot portraits for Weiss's piece on a group of right-leaning iconoclasts who make up the so-called "Intellectual Dark Web." He lit them dramatically in deep twilight, often in pompous poses, poking a bit of fun at their self-importance. "[Weiss] will probably hate me for saying this," Winter says, "but I kind of wanted it to be a little bit of a check and a balance."

Yet he and Weiss connected deeply on a truly dark assignment — covering the October 2018 mass shooting at the Pittsburgh synagogue Weiss had grown up attending. They tried to gain entry to the crime scene,



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portraits of multiracial people for a story. Another recent shoot was for a piece titled “The Lessons of a Hideous Forest,” about the flora growing over Staten Island’s infamous Fresh Kills landfill. The pictures, juxtaposing strangling vines with relics of trash, were twisted and eerily beautiful. Their careful composition and abundant shadows were recognizably Damon.

“The whole dark thing — it’s not particular to Trump’s campaign,” Winter says. “I’m an equal opportunity offender.” It seems doubly strange, then, that his colleagues so often talk about how talented he is at “finding the light.” What does he make of the seeming contradiction?

“I’ve never been a fan of that *National Geographic* golden hour light,” he says. “It’s just kind of uniform and syrupy sweet.” He prefers the constraints of a darkening sky, sometimes even the flickering fluorescents of an auditorium. “You can find beautiful, interesting light in lots of different places.”

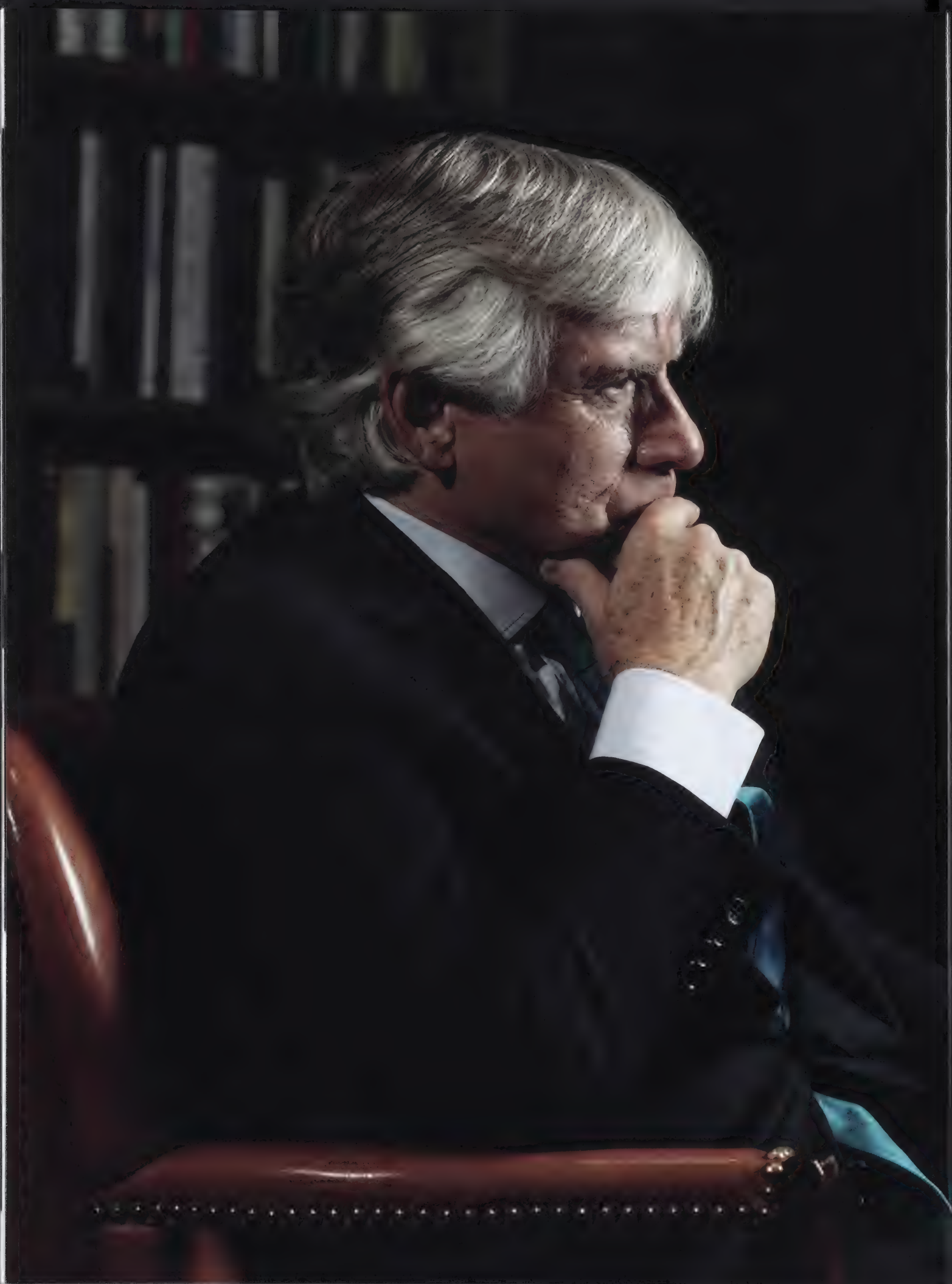
**Boris Kachka ’97, JRN’98** is the books editor of *New York magazine* and the author of *Hothouse: The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art at America’s Most Celebrated Publishing House* (2013) and *Becoming a Veterinarian* (2019). His feature “*The Radical Authenticity of Beto O’Rourke*” was a *CCT Online* exclusive in February.

**Bibi Fell (right),** Spanish/Filipino/  
Chinese/German/  
Irish/French, and  
Madelyn Fell,  
Spanish/Filipino/  
Chinese/German/  
Irish/French/  
Serbian, in Honolulu;  
June 11, 2019.

to witness and convey what really happened inside. “I’d been thinking a lot about the way mass shootings are covered,” says Winter. “We have become so numbed by the rote imagery” — the antiseptic flowers and tears papering over the murder of innocents. They were denied access, so Winter chose to heighten the banality, making note of “this orchestrated dance that follows these horrific acts of gun violence,” inuring us to a scourge we keep on doing nothing about.

Winter has kept up a frantic travel schedule, even if his assignments are less dangerous and more contemplative than they used to be. When we met at his house, he’d just come back from several days in Hawaii, shooting 70









# THE CORE ENDURES

PRESIDENT LEE C. BOLLINGER  
SPEAKS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM'S  
CONTINUING LEGACY

INTERVIEW BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11 | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER



## THE CORE ENDURES

THROUGHOUT THE 2019–20 ACADEMIC YEAR, Columbia College will be marking the Centennial of the Core Curriculum. As our alumni and faculty well know, this set of common courses — required of all undergraduates — is one of the defining experiences of a College education. It began in 1919 with the class that became Contemporary Civilization and evolved and expanded in the decades that followed to embrace Literature Humanities, Music Humanities, Art Humanities, University Writing (formerly Logic & Rhetoric) and, most recently, Frontiers of Science. To kick off this year of celebration and reflection, we asked President Lee C. Bollinger to sit for a conversation about the Core and its significance, not only to the College but also to the University and, more broadly, as testament to the far-reaching benefits of a liberal arts education.



### **What do you think makes the Core Curriculum unique and enduring?**

I think it's fair to say that, for a number of reasons, it's almost impossible for any university in today's world to put together core knowledge as meaningful as Columbia's Core Curriculum. One reason for that is, it's very difficult to get a current consensus. The challenge when you're trying to create something new is different than when you're taking something that's inherited and trying to evolve it.

Many people find the Core to be intellectually thrilling. To be a young person and to be exposed to great texts, great objects of art, and great music of the world over time — and to be exposed to that directly, not intermediated by some secondary or tertiary texts or lectures — is an experience they will never forget. It is reflected in the thousands of comments I have received from current students and alums who say, "*The Core changed my life.*" We all feel a need to connect great thought, great beauty and great achievements to our current lives. The Core is a concentrated, very direct way of making that experience available to young people, which I think is part of its enduring legacy.

### **It's really so much more than a course of study.**

Absolutely. The Core offers an introduction into the scholarly mind. A university is not just a place where knowledge is transferred from one generation to the next; it's a community, a culture. It is a way of thinking, a way of life, a way of approaching almost everything you experience over the course of a life. It encourages a sense of modesty, a sense of your own ignorance, a need to use reason and logic in constructing how you're going to think. You are introduced to that immediately through the Core, and that is very special.

It's also important to recognize that you don't necessarily have an expert teaching you. It will be a serious scholar, but it may be someone coming to the subject with fresh eyes. And so, very early on as a student, you understand that you don't have to be intimidated by expertise. It's powerful to be told and shown by example that even though you aren't as well equipped as someone else might be, it's still your responsibility — and your life will be made better by making the effort — to understand.

### **You're speaking, of course, about the seminar-style format of the Core. Are there other benefits to that approach?**

One of the things about having to speak and write is that it makes you confront your own ignorance, your own incapacities. It's very easy to sit back and be critical when other people are speaking — to think, "That's all completely obvious." But as soon as *you* try to write, and as soon as *you* try to explain things, you have to confront the fact of how difficult it is. If it were so easy to absorb Shakespeare or Montaigne or Aristotle or Virginia Woolf, we wouldn't need universities, and we wouldn't need the Core Curriculum.



Every person has had the experience, I think, of reading a great text, looking at a great piece of art or listening to a fine piece of music and thinking certain things, admiring certain things — but imagine then having a scholar help you to unravel that art's complexities. You would begin to see things that you hadn't, and it's amazing, and by the end you develop a habit of mind; you know that you will never take a great work or any work for granted, and that, too, is an enormous educational benefit, a life benefit.

**There seems to be enormous benefit as well in the community learning aspect of the Core.**

Early on in my presidency, somebody in my family said that it was striking to walk up the Low Steps and to see so many students sitting quite separately, reading Plato or Aristotle. And that symbol of a young person on the Steps, outdoors, reading the same great text as someone sitting a few yards away, is an example of what you're talking about. When you are doing the same thing that all of your peers are doing, it reinforces the seriousness of what it is that you are undertaking. I think it also must be incredibly stimulating to be able to compare notes about classes and readings; it's an immediate bond with other individuals. The objective, of course, is to give our students so much more than the skills they need to read a great text. We want them to understand the value of being able to discuss difficult and important ideas with other people who may not share their views. We want them to continue to do it throughout their lives.

**How do you view the questions around diversity and representation in the Core?**

There has to be an ongoing discussion about the character and the content of the Core. And not only about the Core, but also about scholarship generally — any university worth its salt will embrace that continual self-examination and self-criticism. Issues of inclusiveness need to be addressed. Issues of a more international and global world need to be addressed. Issues about the unfairness and inequality that informed or characterized the societies in which many of these works arose or emerged need to be addressed. It's all part of what it means to be an institution that respects reason and knowledge, and to carry forward values that we, over time, have come to realize are incredibly important — values of equality, values of addressing invidious discrimination, values of being respectful of other people, of being tolerant. So, I think the measure of the continuing success of the Core Curriculum will be its capacity to change as new values are introduced and old values are rethought.

**You've said that "the education afforded by the Core has never been more relevant to the world we inhabit." Can you elaborate?**

We're living at a moment when the attack on basic facts, on the use of reason, on reporting on what you see in the

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world — these are under assault. In one sense, there has always been anti-intellectualism in societies and certainly in American society. Universities have to contend with that, and they have to address it. But, in today's world, this anti-intellectualism is essentially an assault on what it is that universities stand for. So, universities, and the Core Curriculum in particular, need to continue to be sources of responses to those attacks. After all, our mission, ultimately, is to discover new knowledge and pursue the truth.

**How do you view the Core's place and mission within the larger University?**

The Core is, of course, the signature program of the College — but we have 16 schools here. So, I have said, and will say again, that the Core Curriculum is to the University what the University is to the world and the nation. It's easy to say we are about the search for truth, and that can sound banal, cliché. But underlying those words is a whole tradition of respecting human inquiry into truth, knowledge and understanding. That tradition of inquiry has brought enormous benefits to the world — capitalism, free markets, open economies, political systems of self-government, democracies — and these are really, really important. But what's incredibly important, what underlies those systems and organization of societies, is a respect for truth and a desire to expand your knowledge.

I believe in universities. They are very special institutions, and I think part of America's success as a country is rooted in its commitment to colleges and universities and what they represent — liberal arts education, professional education, and not just in terms of preparing people for professions, but also educating people in the broadest sense. But universities are fragile. They're different from the rest of society, and they emphasize certain values — reason and explanation; respect for different points of view; being skeptical, being modest. We take all of those values to an extreme and that creates a culture. The Core Curriculum is the essence of that and representative of what we do at all of Columbia's schools. Studying the Core exposes our students to the best of this culture and prepares them to carry forward this way of thinking into the world.





MARIA CINA



**I**t's the first Saturday in June, and thousands of fans have crowded into New York City's Javits Center, lining up since early morning for a chance to meet their heroes at BookCon. The two-day celebration of books and pop culture brings together authors and readers of young adult (YA) literature, a booming market that has made rock stars out of writers. And one of the industry's brightest lights is Melissa de la Cruz '93.

On that Saturday, de la Cruz perched at a table as the line for her book signing snaked around stanchions and out of view. Excited fans rolled through to take selfies, meet de la Cruz and talk Hamilton (de la Cruz had just come from a packed panel — "Making Out Between the Pages" — where she discussed the final book in her *Alex & Eliza* trilogy, which follows Alexander Hamilton CC 1778's romance with Elizabeth Schuyler). Near the front of the autograph line, a girl clutching all three *Alex & Eliza* books complimented de la Cruz on her striking gunmetal-grey eyeshadow, while

another autograph seeker gushed, "My friends are freaking out that I'm meeting you!" A Sunday giveaway for advance review copies of the first book of her new series, *The Queen's Assassin* (coming in early 2020), was so mobbed that the publisher had to call security. Rock star status: confirmed.

**T**o say de la Cruz is prolific would be an understatement. In the nearly 20 years since she published her first novel, the author has written more than 50 books, penned three television movies, helped develop two thriving book festivals on opposite coasts and, oh yeah, cumulatively her books have spent years on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. But ask the bubbly de la Cruz how she manages her workload and she answers, with a laugh, "Absolute procrastination and then absolute desperation!"

For de la Cruz, writing has always been a passion. She grew up with parents who loved and encouraged reading, and as a child she devoured everything from *Little Women* to her mother's Jackie Collins romance novels (she describes herself as "the kid who always had a book"). But reading an interview with Francine Pascal, creator of the Sweet Valley High tween series, opened her mind to being on the other side of the page. Pascal "talked about how she had created the [Sweet Valley] world, but the women who actually wrote the books were 22 years old! They were three girls who were just out of college and they were her ghostwriters," de la Cruz recalls.

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

# The Teen-Lit Queen

CCT joins the fan club of bestselling author Melissa de la Cruz '93



"At this time I was 11 and I thought, 'They're 22? Maybe in 11 years I could be writing books like these.'"

When de la Cruz was 12, her family left her native Manila and settled in California. Columbia and the East Coast called to her, as she was inspired by both Jay McInerney's *Bright Lights, Big City* and the Beat Generation — "[Columbia's] reputation rested on being the home of Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, and for having produced all these beautiful writers and just having that edgy, alternative reputation," she says. "It felt like the kind of school you would go to if you were a little artistic."

De la Cruz majored in English and art history, and stayed in New York for a decade after graduation, writing about beauty and fashion for publications from *Marie Claire* to

**"I had just talked to my agent about wanting to do a fairy tale and here I was being handed the entire Disney universe."**

*Allure* to the *Times*. In 1999 she sold her first book — the adult fiction novel *Cat's Meow* — and in 2003 she and her husband, Michael Johnston GSAPP'99, moved to Los Angeles.

De la Cruz's first YA novels were contemporary fiction, covering wealthy teens in the Hamptons and regular high school life. Then everything changed: Thanks to the success of the *Twilight* book series (which launched in 2005), vampires and supernatural creatures were suddenly big business. De la Cruz's *Blue Bloods*, about wealthy New Yorkers

who happened to be vampires, was released in 2006 and rode the wave of late-aughts vampire popularity. Although it first became a bestseller in 2008, *Blue Bloods* continued to pop up on the list until as late as 2011; the story grew into a nine-book series. De la Cruz's first take on adult fantasy literature came in 2011 with *Witches of East End*, which spawned a six-book series and a Lifetime TV show, which ran for two seasons.

After success writing about vampires, witches and dystopian futures (the *Heart of Dread* series, co-written with her husband), de la Cruz was looking for the next big thing. A fortuitous lunch with Jeanne Mosure, then-head of Disney Publishing Worldwide, led to an offer de la Cruz couldn't refuse: a deal to write a middle-grade (readers ages 8–12) series about the children of Disney's villains, tied into the upcoming Disney Channel movie *Descendants*. "I thought it was so funny," says de la Cruz. "I had just talked to my agent about wanting to do a fairy tale and here I was being handed the entire Disney universe." The offer turned into 2015's *The Isle of the Lost*, which reigned on the *Times* Bestseller List for 50 weeks ("We ran out of champagne!" jokes de la Cruz) and has spawned an entire book and movie series; the fourth book, *Escape from the Isle of the Lost*, was released on June 4, and the *Descendants 3* film debuted on August 2.

De la Cruz reflects on her accomplishments as being hard won: "There are a lot of ups and downs in creative careers, and I was fortunate to be with people and raised by a family that said, 'When it's time to celebrate, it's time to celebrate,' because you don't know how long the moment will last — you can't take things for granted."





"The first time I hit the bestseller list was in 2008, and I had been a writer for about 10 years by then," she says. "I felt really validated. When *Descendants* did so well and was on the bestseller list for a year, it was hard not to get used to it. But I was really cognizant that these things don't last and you have to enjoy them while they're happening."

On the Friday night before BookCon, de la Cruz sat on a panel with six other YA authors also represented by Penguin Teen, hosting a free trivia night at the Upper West Side Barnes & Noble. Among the crowd of excited teens and young adults was an elderly man who stepped into the Q&A to ask why the authors were wasting their time writing fiction when they could be writing something educational for young people. De la Cruz, there promoting *All for One* (the third book in the *Alex & Eliza* trilogy), was diplomatic in her response: "I write books to entertain, I write them to amuse myself — I hope they amuse other people. But I do think that they teach something that's so much more important than how to put together an airplane. They teach us how to love, and that's the most important lesson of life."

She continued, "I wanted to write about Eliza Schuyler because I wanted to write about a good person, a decent American. In the climate that we're in, I wanted to celebrate that [decency] — everything that is good about our country was in this one person."

De la Cruz is ardent in her belief that reading about different people and places can teach empathy and open-mindedness. Her 2005 book *Fresh Off the Boat* drew from her own family's immigration story and was one of the first Filipino-American themed YA books published in the United States. A decade later, publishing company Harlequin Teen came to her about an imprint they were launching with *Seventeen* magazine about teens going through real-life issues. Their request: Could she write about a teenager experiencing the effects of illegal immigration? Her instinct was to say no, she didn't want to relive the difficulties of her own immigration story (her family came to the U.S. legally on her father's business visa, but it was a long journey to a Green Card). "But then I thought that it would be kind of necessary to tell the story now," she says. "This country was founded by immigrants; we were always proud to be immigrants in this country." The book, *Something in Between*, was released in October 2016.

De la Cruz wants YA to be celebrated in its own right, and to that end she's been instrumental in raising the genre's profile during the two decades she's been writing. She has participated in the Charleston, S.C., young adult book festival YallFest for its entire nine-year run, and is the co-founder of its West Coast sister show, YallWest, begun in 2015. Author Margaret Stohl, the co-founder of both festivals, says, "The incredible power of Mel is that she will see something and immediately know how to make it better, fund it, roll it out, take it to the next level. She came [to the first YallFest] as an author and then, as my friend, said, 'Oh honey, you're doing this all wrong!' And by the next year

she had enlisted every major publishing house in New York and in our industry."

YallFest brings dozens of YA authors to South Carolina for a weekend of panels, signings and special events. De la Cruz notes, "A lot of the cities in the deep south aren't normally on the book tour circuit, and a lot of the kids we met during our first festival were so thankful that we came there." When YallWest launched in Santa Monica, Calif., the organizers wanted to continue bringing YA literature to underserved communities, and so the festival sponsors kids from Title 1 schools (public schools with a large concentration of students from low-income families) to come to the festival for free and to receive free books. "There aren't that many people who can demand the attention of an entire industry and their dollars, and that's what Mel can do," Stohl says. "It's really just this one person who has transformed opportunity and access for children. She's sort of the unofficial CEO of the YA community."

At BookCon, after speaking to a jam-packed room for "Making Out Between the Pages," fans lined up at microphones to ask everything from how de la Cruz and her fellow writers found their passions in life to thanking the panelists for creating diverse characters that speak to the readers' real-life experiences. Moments before de la Cruz headed into the panel, she reflected further on her Friday night comments about love, decency and the power of books. The questions "how to love, who to love" have fueled generations of readers and books," she mused. "From Jane Austen to Shakespeare, it's *the* immortal question. How do you learn about love but through books and putting yourself in someone else's shoes?"

MARIA CINA



### Hamilton!

Read an excerpt from *All for One*, the final book of de la Cruz's *Alex & Eliza* trilogy: [college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/allforone](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/allforone).



## A Well-Lived Landmark

Julie Satow '96, SIPA'01 pays tribute to the Plaza Hotel

For many New Yorkers, the Plaza Hotel is a symbol of wealth and romance, embedded like a low jewel in the city's skyline. To Julie Satow '96, SIPA'01, the Plaza also seemed like a personal landmark — a figure always traced into her life's backdrop. On some high school afternoons, she'd sit in the Sheep's Meadow in Central Park, the hotel's silhouette visible in the distance. As a teenager — and during her time at Columbia — she'd venture inside to visit her grandmother, who stayed there on city visits. Satow's 2009 wedding was held in the Terrace Room, its ornate walls decorated with flow-

ers and Roman statues. "The Plaza always represented glamour and excitement to me," Satow says.

Satow became a journalist, writing first about business and then real estate. In 2015, by then a contributor to *The New York Times*, she decided to write her first book and thought of the mythic hotel she'd known since childhood. The allure of its story was undeniable:

The Plaza had been a beguiling, elusive trophy from its earliest days, the kind of real estate prize that had both seduced and frustrated those who possessed it. From the "rakish adventurer" Harry Black, who owned the hotel in the early 20th century, to the Sonnabend family, from Donald Trump to the jailed Indian tycoon

Subrata Roy, the Plaza had an almost mystical ability to blind rich investors to the vagaries of its often-tenuous bottom line. Trump, who drove the Plaza into bankruptcy proceedings just four years after he bought it in 1988, called the purchase his "Mona Lisa," while for the 21st century's international buyers, the world-famous château was "the ultimate global calling card."

Satow, for one, didn't let the romance of the Plaza blind her to its seamier side. The hotel has always been a locus for scams and scandals as well as for opulent refinement; her book, *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel* (Twelve Books, \$29), rips open the embroidered Edwardian curtains and pulls up the rugs to reveal the grime. During construction, a retired cop was thrown down two unfinished stories; in the 1970s, Central Park South was known as Prostitutes' Promenade. Satow's well-received history is, as *The Wall Street Journal* puts it, a "lively and entertaining portrait" of a beloved landmark with an "astonishingly unsavory past."

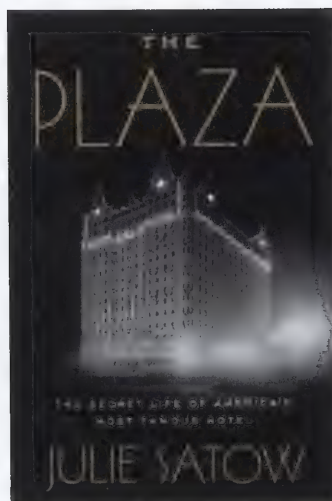
Satow writes movingly about revisiting the Plaza for a night when she had almost finished her book. She wanders through the hallways, past a boutique, a hair salon and the still-popular portrait of Eloise, to the ornate but empty room where her wedding took place. The building is a hybrid now, part condo and part hotel, with pied-à-terres owned by shell companies on the floors where eccentric widows and their servants used to live. Despite the sometimes awkward alterations, Satow is still moved by the Plaza's graceful presence — and she's hopeful about its future. Like any fixer-upper, all it needs is a lot of cash — and the newest owner, Katara (the hotel arm of Qatar's Investment Authority), clearly has deep pockets. "With sufficient investment," Satow says, "I am sure the Plaza can return to its former glory."

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



EMILY ASSIRAN





## Chapter 1

# Parade of Millionaires

"Great hotels have always been social ideas, flawless mirrors to the particular societies they service."

—Joan Didion

On the morning of October 1, 1907, the hotel bellmen and front desk staff were scurrying about the marble lobby, smoothing their uniforms and making final preparations. Upstairs, maids in starched white aprons checked the sumptuous suites, fluffing feather pillows and straightening the damask curtains. As the hotel manager barked orders, a troop of nervous doormen, dressed in black satin breeches and jackets inlaid with yellow braid, filed outside the Plaza's bronze revolving door, arraying themselves along the entryway's red-carpeted steps.

Along Fifty-Ninth Street, crowds had been gathering since the early hours. At 9 a.m., a shiny black carriage finally pulled up in front of the entrance and out stepped Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, one of the country's wealthiest men. The excitement grew palpable as onlookers jostled one another for a glimpse of the New York princeling, while newspapermen called out for a quote. Wearing a top hat and a wide grin, the dashing Vanderbilt strode past the spectators, up the hotel's grand staircase, and through the revolving door.

Once inside, Vanderbilt headed straight for the front desk. But instead of meeting the clerk, he was confronted by a young Irish girl perched atop the counter, absentmindedly clicking her heels. Mary Doyle

was meant to be minding the Plaza newsstand, but while her fellow employees were busily preparing for the grand opening, she had aimlessly wandered over to the desk when she saw the clerk momentarily leave his post. It was at that exact moment that Vanderbilt made his entrance.

"I suddenly realized that the newsstand, where I was supposed to be on duty, wasn't even in sight from where I sat," Doyle recalled in her memoir, *Life Was Like That*. "But, not knowing what else to do, I remained where I was." As the debonair millionaire looked on bemusedly at the young girl with thick blond hair and a snub nose, there was "a slightly strained moment of silence." Then, "with a barely perceptible trace of sarcasm," Vanderbilt inquired if he might not check in. "Still sitting on the desk, I reached out casually, swung the brand-new register pad around in front of him, and dipped and handed him a pen." Vanderbilt bent over the large book and on the first line of the first page signed, "Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt and servant," forever inscribing himself as the Plaza's inaugural guest.

The Plaza was the most expensive hotel in the city's history, its looming eighteen stories dominating the surrounding skyline. Its arrival was so monumental that it ushered in new behaviors that would leave their mark on New York for generations.

The Plaza's opening, for instance, coincided with the debut of one of the city's most enduring symbols, the modern taxicab. On that first day, those in the crowd who ventured to the Fifth Avenue side of the hotel discovered a fleet of twenty-five bright red cars. These vehicles, imported from France, featured gray interiors with long bench seats and two facing single seats that could be turned up when not in use. The drivers were



decked out in matching uniforms made of a similar gray-blue as the interiors. To generate publicity and entice wealthy fans on this first day of business, these prototypes for today's ubiquitous yellow cabs were being offered free of charge to Plaza guests.

In 1907, cars were still novelties — it would be thirteen more years before the first traffic light graced Fifth Avenue. New Yorkers who didn't own carriages often depended on two-wheeled hansom cabs to get around town. But these new taximeter cars, with their decidedly faster pace and clearly marked odometers — charging 30 cents for the first half mile and 10 cents for every quarter of a mile after — quickly replaced horse-drawn hansom cabs as popular transport. "The hansom cabbies were curious at first" about the cars, remembered Tom Clifford, a Plaza doorman who was there that first day, "but it was plain to see that trouble was coming."

In only a few short years, the calls of "Cab, cab, cab!" from hansom drivers perched high upon their platforms were replaced with insistent honking and belching from the new red cars. In 1912, when a *New York Times* reporter stood outside the Times Square newsroom to count traffic, he found that of the forty-eight vehicles that passed by, just five were driven by horses, while nearly one-quarter were taxis. Ironically, today the only place one can find horse-drawn cabs is directly across from the Plaza, where the New York City taxis that marked their death knell were first introduced.

The advent of the Plaza ushered in other new behaviors, besides the use of modern taxis. In the wake of the hotel's opening, for instance, wealthy New Yorkers began embracing a wider public life. Those who had long maintained enormous Manhattan mansions, with their large staffs and expensive upkeep, began moving

instead into hotels. The term "hotel" is a bit of a misnomer, since the terms "apartment" and "hotel" were often used interchangeably. Guests like Vanderbilt, Gates, and 90 percent of those who checked in that day were permanent residents with plans to stay indefinitely; some would remain for a lifetime. By living in hotels, these new apartment dwellers avoided what was dubbed the "servant problem," or finding and keeping affordable, well-trained help. *The New York Times* marveled at "the large number of suites to be occupied by people who have hitherto had their own private residences."

There was also the draw of the Plaza's unsurpassable modern amenities. Guests could order exotic dishes like turtle soup and enjoy the ease of such conveniences as thermostats, telephones, and automatically winding clocks. "Certainly, no private house, however expensively equipped can, as yet, show the appliances for making life not only comfortable and easy, but also hygienic," the fashion magazine *Vogue* wrote in an early review of the hotel. Guests didn't have to hire decorators, as every one of the Plaza's eight hundred rooms came replete with the most elegant of furnishings, including dark wood armoires and sofas upholstered in rich brocade. There were three-button panels that allowed guests to call for a bellboy, maid, or waiter, who were stationed on every floor. And room service was delivered through an elaborate system of pneumatic tubes and dumbwaiters, so it would arrive still warm from the cavernous kitchens below.

Of course, not every guest appreciated the modern conveniences. When the famed tenor Enrico Caruso first moved into his suite at the Plaza, the loud ticking emanating from the automatic clock in his room interrupted his vocal training. In a fit of pique, he put the annoyance out of commission with a blow. But he failed to realize that each clock was connected to a master clock, and the destruction of one machine ruptured the entire system. Sleepy guests who awoke "to glance at the room clock, discover[ed] that the day evidently was standing still," noted a dispatch in the *Baltimore Sun*. "Those who had luncheon engagements were assailed by ennui as they waited for the hour that came not."

Irate guests began hounding the front desk, and a manager was dispatched to investigate. When he arrived at the door of Caruso's suite, he was told by the tenor's servant that "Chevalier Caruso" could not be interrupted since "such annoyance was disconcerting to the aesthetic soul." The manager insisted, and when he eventually won entrance, he was confronted with the necessary proof. There, "beneath the embarrassed face of the clock in the Caruso suite hung a mass of broken and twisted wires."

The opening of the Plaza also influenced fashion and social patterns. Since the 1890s, the elite of society had paraded their finery along Peacock Alley, a three-hundred-foot marble corridor that ran the length of the fashionable Waldorf-Astoria hotel. It was a grand



**FIRST PLAZA:** The first Plaza Hotel was an eight-story structure with a brick-and-brownstone facade, 400 guest rooms and a famous painting of a lion by Massachusetts artist Alexander Pope Jr. It was, for a time, considered one of New York's grandest hotels. Here it is in 1894.

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BYRON COMPANY (NEW YORK, N.Y.) MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK





**WHITE BEACON:** The Plaza was designed as a French chateau in skyscraper proportions, with a facade of marble and white terracotta, and a copper mansard roof that reflected the green of nearby Central Park. Here it is in 1920, dominating the skyline.

spectacle that epitomized the excesses of the Gilded Age. But now, with the Plaza, this behavior became a broader phenomenon. It became popular to go out to restaurants and eat among strangers, and to spend evenings ballroom dancing to an orchestra with hundreds of other couples. The Plaza and its compatriots became preeminent places to show off, enjoy one's wealth, and cement one's status in high society. At the Plaza, you could march through the lobby in the latest fashion and be assured of appearing in the society column, the hotel hallways being clogged with reporters in search of gossip to fill the next day's papers.

The Plaza also offered new levels of celebrity, a precursor to reality stars like the Kardashians. For instance, when one of New York's wealthiest society matrons, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, arrived at the Plaza one evening dressed in a broadtail fur cloak fastened with a conspicuous diamond brooch on the outside of her coat, it caused a flurry of copycats. "In a flash this innovation had sunk deep into the hearts of other women,"

detailed one columnist, in a piece titled "Jewels Outside Your Furs."

Even those with less wealth could successfully leverage the publicity offered by a hotel. As one reporter archly noted, all you had to do was host a relatively inexpensive party, "amounting to no more than afternoon tea," and you would find yourself the exalted subject of an item such as: "Mrs. So-and-So entertained 50 guests at luncheon at the Plaza Hotel, the company afterwards playing bridge."

And long before the Beatles drew frenzied fans to the Plaza, highly anticipated celebrity sightings were attracting crowds. A year after the Plaza opened, word leaked out that Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, sister of Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, and her betrothed, the Count Laszlo Szechenyi, would be having tea at the Plaza's Palm Court. They were to arrive at the same time as Miss Theodora Shonts and her fiancé, the Duc de Chaulnes, and the public, anxious to catch a glimpse of the titled royalty, began swarming the hotel.





**PLUNGERS:** The Plaza was sumptuously outfitted with lavish furnishings in brocades of rose and green, more than 1,000 crystal chandeliers and elevators featuring glass doors through which the mechanical pistons could be seen. Called “plungers,” these elevators were a technological feat, and remained in use well into the 1970s. Here, the lobby on opening day in 1907.

“Within half an hour the corridors were impassible. Visitors took possession of bellboys’ benches and every available chair,” noted the *New York Times*. The hotel closed the Palm Court’s glass doors against the throngs, but “the crowd was undismayed and courteously stormed” the room, forcing the maître d’hôtel to use his “broad shoulders” to “resist the advances of a flying wedge of well-dressed women.” In the end, when the famous guests arrived, one couple was surreptitiously escorted to their table by way of the hotel’s ground-floor pantry, while the other snuck in through a lobby brokerage office.

Another draw of hotel life was the dining. It was from hotels that Parker House rolls, Waldorf salad, and the Manhattan cocktail originated. The Plaza’s popular subterranean Grill Room, located beneath the lobby, featured a glass refrigerator from which patrons could pick their own steak or pork chop. As an added bonus, the restaurant unexpectedly offered ice-skating during the warm summer months. As June rolled around, the hotel flooded the Grill Room’s tile floor with water they then froze, so that customers could while away the time between courses skating, a full orchestra dressed in white tuxedos providing the musical accompaniment.

As notable as ice-skating in the summer was, the service that the Grill Room offered to patrons who had pets was even more astounding. The restaurant featured a “dog check room,” presided over by a French maid who provided her pampered pooches with a selection of large and small padded baskets, pans filled with water, and an unending supply of dog biscuits. In fact, at any one time, the Plaza was home to nearly three dozen dogs, “many of them imported and virtu-

ally every one of them well pedigreed,” according to *Life* magazine, which later published a multipage feature on the phenomenon.

“Like their owners, Plaza dogs tend to be exceptionally well dressed and well fed. They find life at the hotel unhurried and pleasant,” the magazine noted. There was Nana, a French poodle who boasted her own room featuring a miniature bath, a dog tutor, a dog nurse, and, of course, a specially designed dog-food menu. There was also Pelleas, a chic Pekingese owned by a famous Belgian author; and Bonzu, who at thirteen was the hotel’s oldest canine inhabitant. Given the wealth of its residents and the life of ease many enjoyed, it made sense that the Plaza was known for its dogs. As Thorstein Veblen, the economist who coined the phrase “conspicuous consumption,” noted, the dog, unlike the mouse-chasing cat, “commonly serves no industrial purpose.” A dog is merely “an item of expense,” its “unquestioning subservience and a slave’s quickness in guessing his master’s mood” making it an ideal showpiece for the rich.

Not all dogs, however, were showpieces. A tiny Pomeranian named Digi would prove Veblen wrong when he accomplished what even a New York City police detective could not. Digi’s mistress, Patricia Burke, a socialite visiting from Los Angeles, had lost a diamond-and-pearl ring somewhere in the vast reaches of the hotel. Employees were dispatched to look for it, and a detective was called. But it wasn’t until Digi, who had been following his mistress about the hotel all day, began making strange noises that she finally paid



**MCCARTNEY MOMENT:** While countless young fans tried to sneak up the Plaza’s back staircase into the Beatles’s 12th-floor suite, Gregg Salomone, whose father managed the hotel, strolled through the front door of the musicians’ rooms. Here, a 6-year-old Gregg stands with Ringo, Paul and George, as well as his sister Lourdes and her friend Bunny Castalano. Gregg’s hand is hovering because moments earlier, Paul had pointed out that his fly was open.





**TEA TIME:** The tea room, later named the Palm Court, featured a curved ceiling made of colored glass that let in daylight, and oversized palm trees and rubber plants, lending the room a garden-like ambience. It was here that British actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell scandalized patrician patrons by lighting up a cigarette shortly after the hotel's opening.

him some heed. "Miss Burke looked at Digi, and there, to her amazement, was the ring gripped tightly in the teeth of the Pomeranian," reported the *Washington Post*. Another useful dog was Captain, a bulldog who belonged to Plaza resident Mrs. Benjamin Kirkland. Every evening, Captain appeared at the front desk to collect a leather case filled with valuable jewels, which he would then carry — "never did anyone touch the bag in the Boston bull's mouth" — to Kirkland's room in time for her to dress, according to one retelling.

A multitude of employees was needed to care for these pets and serve the Plaza's exacting guests. If a team of ironworkers striving in unison was necessary to erect the hotel, then a collaboration of hundreds of staff was critical to the Plaza's operations. When it came to dining, for instance, the heart of the enterprise was the subterranean kitchen, a maze of white-tiled rooms located in the building's lower reaches. It was overseen by Monsieur Lapperraque, a French master chef, the "Grand Poo-bah in this underground land of saucepans," who surveyed eighty-three cooks from a glass-enclosed office "like a watchful spider in the midst of his web." There were separate rooms for storing meat, fish, dry goods, and green groceries, and in

what sounded almost like a nursery rhyme, each cook was tasked with a specialty, including a bread baker, an ice cream maker, and a candy creator. It wasn't unusual for the kitchen to prepare such fare as kangaroo meat or to string up giant game or oversized tortoises on racks to ready them for the ovens.

Even the Plaza's air was rarefied. The hotel used an elaborate ventilation system to purify the oxygen pumped into the building, and a network of thermostats ensured "there is no annoyance with furnaces that will not burn, with steam radiators that refuse to be hot, or that persistently compel us to endure either a tropical heat or dangerous draughts from windows opened in despair," *Vogue* wrote approvingly. The refrigeration equipment was also a modern wonder, used not only to produce ice for tea and cocktails, but to circulate brine all the way up to the hotel's seventeenth floor, above the guest rooms. There, it was used to cool a storage room for guests' fur coats.

From the book *THE PLAZA: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel*. Copyright (c) 2019 by Julie Satow. Reprinted by permission of Twelve/Hachette Book Group, New York, NY. All rights reserved.





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## HITTIN' THE BOOKS

Class is in session, and Butler beckons. The library, originally named South Hall, was built in 1934 to replace Low Memorial Library, which had run out of space for its growing collection. In 1946, South Hall was renamed to honor Columbia President Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882, who had retired the previous year. The largest of Columbia's libraries, Butler houses the University's collections in the humanities, with a particular focus on history, literature, philosophy and religion.

SCOTT RUDD

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## Celebrating Core Stories

By Michael Behringer '89

This academic year marks one of the most meaningful milestones in Columbia College's history: the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum. It will be a year of celebration and reflection on the defining element of our Columbia experience — and on something that is uniquely ours as College alumni.

Beginning with the Centennial launch event on Friday, September 27, alumni and students will have the chance to participate in special programming, along with other opportunities to relive and celebrate their Core experience. I encourage you to join as many events as you can.

As part of the College's commemoration, the Columbia College Alumni Association is asking alumni to share their "Core Stories" — reflections on and memories of their Core experience and the influence it has wielded in their lives. You can submit a Core Story (which can be as short as one sentence), read others' accounts and learn more about the centennial on the Core Centennial website, [core100.columbia.edu](http://core100.columbia.edu).

My own Core Story began in high school. For me, the Core and Columbia were one and the same, and it was what attracted me to attend. I had very little prior exposure to the Core texts, and intimately studying these great works seemed to me what the ideal undergraduate education should be. What I remember and cherish most were our passionate small-group discussions. I went to a large, Catholic high school, and it didn't have many classes smaller than 30 or 40 students; unsurprisingly, most of our backgrounds and worldviews were similar.

In the Core classroom, we learned to disagree without being disagreeable. The Core emphasized the value of listening to differing viewpoints and challenging personal assumptions to better under-

stand the world around us. It was exhilarating, and I developed skills that have served me well in my professional and personal life. Some 30 years later, my Core textbooks still hold a prominent place on my bookshelves. Worn and tattered, they are a regular reminder that the lessons of the Core are indeed lifelong.

The Core is about more than what happens in the classroom. It's a vital piece of the collective Columbia College Journey, pushing students outside their comfort zones, celebrating their curiosity, and allowing them to engage in discussions and tackle subjects that they might not have been exposed to anywhere else. The Core prepares College students for not only a life of engaged citizenship, but also a life of greater enjoyment.

As we reflect upon the Core's 100 years, it's also important that alumni look to the future. Operating the Core is no small feat. It requires substantial financial, intellectual and physical resources. Consider the following:

- the Core comprises more than 25,000 hours of instruction, with more than 120 Lit Hum and Contemporary Civilization instructors *per semester*;
- the College's class size is substantial (the Class of '23 totals 1,406), yet the College is still committed to teaching Core classes in seminars of no more than 22 students; and
- Core instructors come from departments such as history, classics, philosophy, political science, art and music, and are asked to teach a multi-disciplinary course outside their primary field of expertise. Coordinating the talent that teaches Core classes takes extraordinary effort.

All of which is to say that maintaining the Core is a massive undertaking. It's also an expensive one, because each and every student is a guaranteed participant. Columbia relies upon alumni contributions, including gifts to the Core through the Columbia College Fund, to help underwrite those enterprise costs as well as to fund innovative programming and events for students.

I hope the Centennial serves as a call to arms for Columbians to ensure that the Core remains vibrant and impactful as it enters its second century. There are so many ways alumni can invest in the Core, and gifts of all sizes are both needed and welcome. To learn how you can support the Core and be part of this exciting effort, please visit [core100.columbia.edu](http://core100.columbia.edu).

This year promises to be a momentous one for Columbia and the Core. I look forward to both hearing your Core Story and celebrating this anniversary together.

**ROAR!**

*Michael Behringer*



Behringer still has many of his Core books at home.





ANDREW BURTON / GETTY IMAGES

## The Champions' Champion

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

**T**he electrifying performance of the U.S. women's soccer team this summer furnished **Jeffrey L. Kessler '75, LAW'77** with something unique in his career as a high-profile sports lawyer: the thrill of watching a beloved team compete for international glory while vying for an historic legal breakthrough under his guidance. While the players' talent and swagger was catching the world's eye, Kessler was masterminding the team's pursuit of pay equity and equal treatment, a cause that reverberates far beyond the soccer world. "I can honestly say I've never been involved in a sports matter that has had such pervasive, widespread public support," he says.

A top member of the international law firm Winston & Strawn, Kessler has long operated on the front line of athletes' rights and interests as individual competitors, employees, union members and citizens. Some of his earliest heroes, he notes, were sports figures who bucked the establishment to follow their conscience and assert their rights. "I was inspired to become a lawyer in part by people like Curt Flood, Muhammad Ali, John Carlos and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and the idea of using the law to achieve social justice

objectives," says Kessler, who specialized in antitrust law before his practice became increasingly involved in sports. "So in a strange way my childhood inspirations have come to roost in my career, totally unplanned and unexpectedly."

Among many key episodes to be found on Kessler's career highlight reel, he litigated the 1992 case *McNeil v. NFL*, which resulted in free agency in the NFL; negotiated the current salary cap/free agency systems in the NBA and NFL; and challenged the amateurism provisions of the NCAA. He represented Patriots quarterback Tom Brady during the Deflategate controversy, defended the right of NFL players to take a knee during the national anthem and argued for the right of double-amputee track stars Oscar Pistorius (years before his murder conviction) and more recently, Blake Leeper, to compete in the Olympics despite their use of prosthetics.

The heart of the women's legal fight is a lawsuit Kessler filed in federal court this past March on behalf of all 28 team members, accusing the sport's governing body, the United States Soccer Federation, of years of gender discrimination, in violation of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The





federation not only compensates the women's team considerably less than the U.S. men's team, the suit charges, but also spends less on coaching, training, medical personnel, marketing and travel.

Compensation for the national teams is not a straightforward process; it is determined by a tangle of collective bargaining agreements, payments from FIFA (the sport's international governing body), sponsorships and other factors. Some have argued that men's soccer generates far greater revenue worldwide, justifying the pay differentials. Kessler counters not only that the U.S. women's team generates greater revenue than the U.S. men, but also that, under law, the federation cannot compensate players unequally based on gender. As of late July, the case appeared headed for mediation.

All along, public opinion has weighed heavily in favor of the U.S. women's team. The throngs who cheered them at a tickertape parade along the Canyon of Heroes three days after the World Cup victory — chanting "Equal pay! Equal pay!" — certainly understood that the event was both a celebration of sports heroics and a rallying cry for women's rights at a time when they are felt to be under assault. After the final horn sounded on the United States' 2-0 victory over the Netherlands on July 7, tennis legend and feminist icon Billie Jean King tweeted: "These athletes have brought more attention, support, & pride to women's sport than perhaps any other team in history. It is long past time to pay them what they rightly deserve."

"They're inspiring," Kessler says of the U.S. team. "They are maybe under more pressure than any group of female athletes has ever been. And they not only performed amazingly throughout the tournament, but they also did so well handling the media and the world on this important issue of equal pay. So to be able to do both of those things at the same time in the fashion they did is really just incredible."

Viewing the World Cup final live from France on a 65-inch plasma TV in his Manhattan apartment, Kessler allowed himself to set aside the legal briefs and enjoy the drama.

As the match got underway, he was confident. "I just felt in my heart that they were going to come through, because they always have," Kessler says. Yet as the 60-minute mark passed with the American and Dutch squads locked in a scoreless tie, he admits, "I was glued to my seat." And then, when U.S. co-captain Megan Rapinoe banged in a penalty kick in the 61st minute, followed soon afterward by an insurance goal by midfielder Rose Lavelle, "I jumped up and shouted for joy," Kessler says, "even though no one else was in the room."

*Former CCT editor Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80 has held senior editorial positions at People, Vibe and Latina magazines and contributes to Smithsonian Magazine and other publications. His feature on Wah Chen '92, "Small Business with a Social Conscience," appeared in the Summer 2019 issue.*

## Katherine Katcher '07 Advocates for the Formerly Incarcerated

By Molly Shea

**K**atherine Katcher '07 says she was never quite sure what she wanted to do after graduating. "I've always leaned toward advocacy, and have always admired people whose role in life has been to fight for justice and stand up for people who've been oppressed," she says. "I admired Jewish attorneys who went to the South and fought in the civil rights movement. I've felt like my calling is to figure out, what are the biggest human rights issues of our time? How can I fight for justice today?"

As she fumbled for the answer, Katcher, an anthropology major, found herself in an offbeat class: "Literature of the Sea," with Professor Robert Ferguson.

"We spent a whole semester reading *Moby Dick*, then rereading it — dissecting it. What is the whale? What is the sea? Who are the foes, and who are the allies?" she recalls. "[Ferguson] was a law professor, so he used literature as a vehicle to go more deeply into some of these questions of how we define good and evil."

The class proved eye opening and helped propel Katcher into a career as an advocate for prison reform — as the founder of the Oakland, Calif.-based criminal justice reform nonprofit Root & Rebound. "I work with a lot of people who are both victim and offender," she says. "Most perpetrators of crime have suffered immensely in their lives, and that course taught me to look at people in a new way."



JOSIE DIETHER-MARTIN

Katcher spends her days leading a team of lawyers and advocates working on behalf of the formerly incarcerated. Her organization helps released offenders reenter society, guiding them through the parole system while educating the public on the ins and outs of hiring employees with a prison record. "Though [the law] has often been used against certain communities, we use it as a support," Katcher explains of her organization's approach to helping end mass incarceration.



Katcher worked at nonprofits after graduating, but kept bumping up against frustrating policies she couldn't change without legal training. "I wanted to do more in terms of fighting for justice," she says. "I wanted to get to the root of these issues on a systemic level."

She founded Root & Rebound in 2013, almost immediately after graduating from UC Berkeley's law school, hiring a classmate as her first staff attorney. Together, they developed the team's three-point strategy: educating people and families affected by mass incarceration on how to reintegrate into their communities post-prison, providing legal services directly to the currently and formerly incarcerated and their families, and advocating for policy reform on a state and national level. "Six years later, we have 24 people on our team; offices in Oakland, Fresno, Los Angeles and San Bernardino; and we recently launched a sister site in Greenville, S.C.," Katcher says.

The plan is to continue working with grassroots organizations that are already established but could use some legal support.

"We're lawyering alongside communities that are most impacted," she says.

And 12 years after leaving Morningside Heights, Katcher is eyeing a return to her Columbia roots. She's in talks with the Business School's Tamer Center for Social Enterprise to create a guide for hiring people with criminal convictions, and working with the school's Justice Lab to analyze data on opportunities for success within parole and probation policy reform.

Her overarching goal, Katcher says, is to help others act on what they know is right, like she did. "I did not grow up in any way directly affected by mass incarceration, and I still feel like all of us have a role to play in undoing a lot of these harms."

**Molly Shea** is a journalist based in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her last article for CCT was "Who Wants To Live Forever?" in the Winter 2018–19 issue's "Bookshelf" section.

## For This History Teacher, There's No Time Like the Present

By Rebecca Beyer

**T**here was a time when **Sari Beth Rosenberg '97, TC'02** had to dig deep into her well of storytelling skills to create enough dramatic tension to hold the attention of her New York City public high school history students.

No longer.

Now, their interest is piqued on a daily basis by what they see on the news and read on social media, and Rosenberg uses those current — and often controversial — events as touchstones for the relevant topics she covers in her U.S. history courses.

"Everyone's arguing about history," Rosenberg says of the pundits and politicians who dominate the news, "including a lot of people who shouldn't be because they don't know what they're talking about. Kids are more interested than ever before. They have an incentive to learn."

For the past few years, Rosenberg has been part of a small team of teachers hired by the city's Department of Education to remake the U.S. and global history curriculum. The goal: to move students away from rote memorization and toward a more active engagement with historical events — in other words, not just "this happened," but "this happened *because*." There's also a renewed focus on providing multiple perspectives, especially when talking about marginalized people.

"It's doing something with the history versus just gazing at it," she adds.

Rosenberg's efforts are getting noticed. Earlier this year she received the Paul A. Gagnon Prize from the National Council for History Education, which recognizes efforts to promote and protect history in the K–12 curricula. The city's DOE also selected her as one of its #DOESHERoes for Women's History Month, in part for her work co-leading a feminist club at her high school (the group's other leader is Alexander Marx '98).

Rosenberg studied history at the College and says in her early teaching years she tried to emulate one of her favorite professors, Ann Douglas, who taught a popular course on the Beat Generation, and then followed her love of literature into publishing before earning a master's in social studies education. In 2002, she joined the staff of NYC's High School for Environmental Studies.

She says she never thought she'd still be teaching nearly two decades after she began, but she finds the work too rewarding to leave behind.



MAXIMILIAN RE-SUGIURA





"I'm not saying it's all *To Sir, with Love* moments," she says with a laugh. "It's not all magical. A lot of the time, it's just, 'Everyone put your phones away and stop talking.'"

Outside the classroom, Rosenberg consults with New-York Historical Society curators, sitting in on focus groups and offering notes on written materials for its exhibitions, including the recent *Hudson Rising*, which focused on industrial development, commerce, tourism and environmental awareness around the Hudson River. She also has

written for A+E Networks's #SheDidThat series (and was hired for the job by Lea Goldman '98) and appeared in an episode of the Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum* to discuss arsenic in wallpaper.

All that "definitely aligns with my overall goal of sneaking [history] into the mainstream," she says. "It's just so important to being a citizen right now."

**Rebecca Beyer** is a freelance writer in Boston.

## Noël Duan '13 Creates a Doggy Domain

By Molly Shea

**N**oël Duan '13 remembers sitting in her freshman Literature Humanities class, analyzing *The Odyssey*, when a particular topic of discussion really sank in.

"Odysseus comes home after 20 years, and no one recognizes him in his home city, not even his wife," Duan recalls. "His appearance has changed that much. His dog Argos, who was a puppy when he left, is the only one that recognizes him."

"We studied *The Odyssey* because it was supposed to teach us about human civilization, but what I remember was realizing, oh, that's really representative of the human-dog relationship."

That light-bulb moment stuck with Duan through the rest of her degree in sociocultural anthropology, a master's in women's studies at Oxford and her first full-time journalism job. After being laid off from said job, her first decision was to adopt a dog. Artemis, her now-4-year-old pup, opened her eyes to a new New York — and her next career move. "Suddenly I started meeting my neighbors. I would take Artemis to the park and talk to other dog owners. I realized that having a dog is a great way to get to know people."

Inspired by her new way of seeing the world, this past spring Duan launched Argos & Artemis, an online community for dog people. The site features conversations between Duan and prominent dog-owning New Yorkers, including makeup mavens Bobbi Brown and Linda Rodin, Columbia classics professor Marcus Folch, indie magazine founder Verena von Pfetten '05 and gallerist Lauren Wittels '89, GSAS'92. "Dogs are a great entry point to intimacy," says Duan, who notes that in talking about their furry friends, people often reveal a lot of themselves.

Duan also pens humorous essays for the site (e.g., "All the Men Who Pretend to Have Dogs on Dating Apps"), offers practical tips and generates a newsletter, The Dog Park.

Plans for the site include events for dog owners, and, down the line, an e-commerce rollout for pet (and human) products. "I've been lucky in that I've had access to a lot of cool dog people, and I've seen what they're buying," she says. "I do think there's a big need for a curated hub."

This isn't Duan's first project launch — she started Columbia's first fashion magazine, *Hoot*, her freshman year. "It taught me a lot about plunging forth and being entrepreneurial, and doing things before you get permission," she says. (Duan and her fellow editors once draped *Alma Mater* in balloons for a photoshoot. They were chased down by campus security, but got the shot.)



SYLVIE ROSKOFF

And nothing prepares you for the shock of entrepreneurship like adopting your first puppy. "There's no handbook for getting a dog," Duan says with a laugh — though writing one might lie somewhere on her list of what's to come.

**Molly Shea** is a journalist based in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her last article for CCT was "Who Wants To Live Forever?" in the Winter 2018–19 issue's "Bookshelf" section.



# bookshelf

## The Sound of (Faked) Music

By Jill C. Shomer

**T**he premise sounds like the best cocktail party story you ever heard: An amateur violinist gets hired by a professional classical music ensemble led by a mysterious, messianic conductor and tours the country for four years, giving fake concerts. The musicians play quietly while speakers blare music from prerecorded CDs. And hardly anyone ever finds out.

But **Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman '03, SOA'09's** riveting debut memoir, *Sounds Like Titanic* (W.W. Norton & Co., \$25.95), turns out to be much more than a gossipy exposé. Her fascinating personal story is intertwined with bigger-picture observations about American notions of success, what is "real" and "fake" in our culture, and the challenges of making ends meet and navigating young womanhood. "What are one's options in America, land of the exceptional, if one is born average?" Hindman writes.

Hindman grew up in the Appalachian mountains of West Virginia and Virginia. As a child, she was turned on to the violin after hearing Vivaldi's "Winter" in a cartoon movie, and begged her parents to get one for years before they gave in. She began lessons at age 8 — the nearest teacher was a four-hour round trip — but despite years of practice, Hindman never felt accomplished as a violinist.

Her story is driven by her attempts to support herself at the College. Before joining the ensemble in her senior year and meeting the man referred to only as The Composer, Hindman joined the Air Force ROTC for the benefits; then, after quitting, she sold everything from long-distance telephone scams to massage oils to her own eggs. Struggling to pay tuition and dogged by feelings

of mediocrity, she colludes with The Composer's scam ("the classical music version of Milli Vanilli — 'Milli Violinni'") not only for the money, but for the praise of the listeners. "As someone who had only worked menial jobs, being seen as a successful musician was extremely alluring," she says. Ultimately, Hindman spirals into an identity crisis and disillusionment as she "plays" for audiences who

are genuinely moved by the performance, unable to differentiate real from fake.

Feeling psychologically destroyed, she left the tour in 2006 and got a job at CUMC that offered a tuition benefit for grad school. "My negative experiences as an undergrad were mostly tied to money, and once that was taken out, getting my M.F.A. was the best educational experience of my life," she says.

Hindman is now a professor of creative writing at Northern Kentucky University, where she recently won the Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. "College was the time in my life when I most needed help, but was least able to ask for it," she says. "Now I try to look out for students who might be going through similar things.

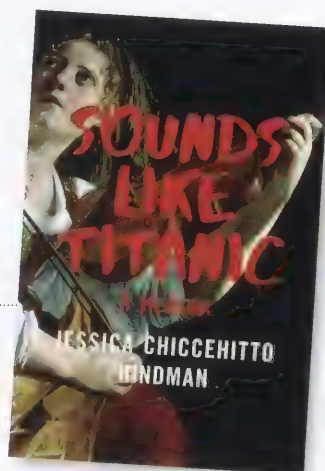
"I certainly have a different perspective now on what it means to succeed and what it means to fail," Hindman says. "The illusion of 'perfection' or immediate success is in fact an illusion — people who seem to 'have it all' may still be struggling in some way.

"I also used to think that if you worked hard enough, you could achieve whatever you want. But now I see that there are huge societal forces at work that just *stick* people, and it has nothing to do with how smart they are or how hard they work. I know it's not very uplifting, but I think an important takeaway is that 'failure' is not always a personal failing."

*Titanic* is narrated in second person, partly, Hindman says, as a way to distance herself from some of the more painful parts of her story. The "you" also helped her to universalize her experience. "It was a way to say this book is not just about me or this guy; it's about other people," Hindman says. "I think by using different pronouns, you can make some kind of psychological switch — you can see yourself better as a character on the page."

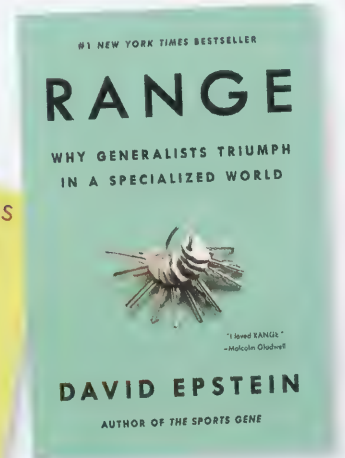
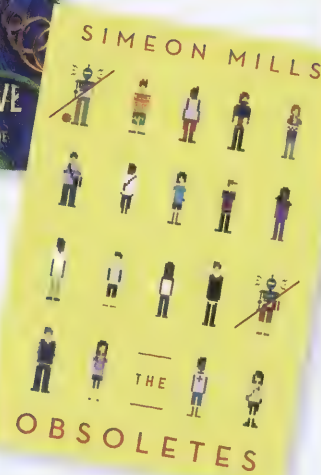
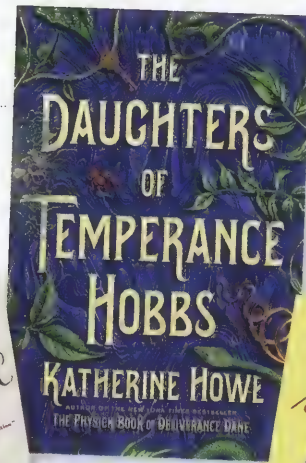
And though exposing the identity of The Composer could have been a juicy hook, Hindman opted to keep him anonymous. "What I was trying to do was bigger than just him," she says. "Having the Internet piling on this guy didn't need to happen. These were charity concerts, so it wasn't out-and-out fraud, and really — people just loved the music."

Hindman is similarly tender with herself in hindsight. In her epilogue, she writes that after a few semesters of teaching, she had a revelation: "Faking is pedagogy. Faking is teaching and faking is learning, from babies faking speech to teenagers faking coolness ... It's in the faking of other people's writing that one learns to write. Faking is the way that all human beings grow."



VANESSA BORER





**Misfire: The Tragic Failure of the M16 in Vietnam** by Bob Orkand '58 and Lyman Duryea. Orkand, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, combines insider knowledge of weapons development with firsthand combat experience to tell the story of the oft-malfunctioning firearm that was rushed into troops' hands in 1965 (Stackpole Books, \$29.95).

**Artistic Collaboration Today: Profiles of Creative Teams in Diverse Media** by Victor M. Cassidy '62. A report on more than 40 collaborating sculptors, painters, printmakers, photographers, architects and performers who have worked in tandem with other artists (McFarland, \$45).

**Semmelweis, The Women's Doctor** by Anthony Valerio '62. The life and work of pioneering feminist physician Ignaz P. Semmelweis, known as "the Father of Antisepsis," who discovered the causes and means of prevention of childbed fever (Amazon Digital Services, \$9.99).

**The Last Days of Paul Rimbaud** by Thomas C. Lewis '63. The last novel in a trilogy about Rimbaud, a Vietnam veteran who has buried his memories of the war (340 Press, \$19.95).

**Big Cabin** by Ron Padgett '64. A new collection of poems about mortality, consciousness and time, written over three seasons in a Vermont cabin (Coffee House Press, \$16.95).

**Learning to See, and Other Stories and Memoirs from Senegal** by Gary Engelberg '65. Engelberg, a co-founder of Africa Consultants International, an NGO that promotes cross-cultural communication, health and social justice, has lived in Senegal, West Africa, for more than 50 years (BookBaby, \$25.19).

**The Complete Poetry of Giacomo da Lentini** translation and notes by Richard Lansing '65. The first translation of the complete poetry of da Lentini, the first major Italian lyric poet, and the inventor of the sonnet (University of Toronto Press, \$24.95).

**You Say You Want a Revolution: SDS, PL, and Adventures in Building a Worker-Student Alliance** edited by John F. Levin '65 and Earl Silbar. Former members of the Worker-Student Alliance recount and evaluate their participation in the struggles of the 1960s and early 1970s (1741 Press, \$18.95).

**Turkey Shoot** by Geoffrey Dutton '66. Dutton's debut novel is an international conspiracy thriller set in Greece and Turkey in fall 2015, as a young Iraqi refugee takes part in a terrorist mission (Perfidy Press, \$15.99).

**Entrenchment: Wealth, Power, and the Constitution of Democratic Societies** by Paul Starr '70. Pulitzer Prize-winner Starr describes politics today as a struggle over entrenchment — efforts to bring about change in ways that opponents will find difficult to undo (Yale University Press, \$28.50).

**The Next Republic: The Rise of a New Radical Majority** by D.D. Guttenplan '78. Guttenplan, a national political correspondent, profiles nine activists who are changing the course of American history (Seven Stories Press, \$23.95).

**A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America** by Kirsten Fermaglich '92. This first history of name changing offers a window into American Jewish life throughout the 20th century (New York University Press, \$28).

**Handbook of Student Engagement Interventions: Working with Disengaged Youth** edited by Jennifer A. Fredericks '92, Amy L. Reschly and Sandra L. Christenson. The authors pull together the current research on

engagement in schools and empower readers to implement interventions (Academic Press, \$87.58).

**The Daughters of Temperance Hobbs: A Novel** by Katherine Howe '99. A New England history professor must race against time to free her family from a curse (Henry Holt and Co., \$28).

**The Obsoletes: A Novel** by Simeon Mills '00. Mills's debut follows two teenage brothers as they navigate high school while hiding a secret: They're actually robots (Skybound Books, \$26).

**Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World** by David Epstein '02. A *New York Times* bestseller that makes a case for breadth and late starts (Riverhead Books, \$28).

**An October to Remember 1968: The Tigers-Cardinals World Series as Told By the Men Who Played in It** by Brendan Donley '15. Donley traveled the country to gather the accounts of the remaining players of the famed Tigers and Cardinals teams (Sports Publishing, \$24.41).

**Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley's Bill Campbell** by Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg and Alan Eagle. Management lessons from legendary football coach and business executive Bill Campbell '62, TC '64 (HarperBusiness, \$28.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_bookshelf](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)



# classnotes



SCOTT RUDD

Golden fall leaves contrast beautifully with Columbia blue as the seasons change on campus.

## 1942

**Melvin Herskowitz**  
22 Northern Ave.  
Northampton, MA 01060-2310  
DrMelvin23@gmail.com

In early June, I had a phone call from Daniel Albohn '81, son of our late classmate **Arthur Albohn** SEAS'43. Daniel is a telecom exec and is devoted to our athletics teams. He commented on the Spring 2019 issue of *CCT*, and was enthusiastic about Columbia's increasingly competitive status in the Ivy League, especially in football and basketball.

Arthur was a chemical engineer by profession, and also a longtime

member of the New Jersey State Legislature, where he was a steadfast Conservative member for several years. This writer, whose political views were different from Arthur's, was friendly with both Arthur and his wife, Regina, who attended many alumni events and were loyal Lions. Best wishes to Daniel and his family.

**Dr. Gerald Klingon** (98), a retired neurologist living in NYC, frequently calls me to discuss Columbia affairs. He recently reminded me of the historic 1939 baseball game versus Princeton at Baker Field, which was the first televised sporting event. Columbia lost to Princeton, 2-1. Gerald, then a freshman, saw the game. Our pitcher, **Hector Dowd** '40, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1943

and established a law firm in New York. This game was announced by **Bill Stern**, now deceased, one of the preeminent sportscasters of that era. Gerald became the varsity first baseman at Columbia and once hit a home run into the Harlem River.

Kind regards to all classmates.

## 1943

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

From **Bernie Weisberger**: "Hello, classmates of 1943. I just read my last entry, in the Summer 2019 issue,





written to cover the final days of 2018, which were somewhat dismal. Alas, winter of the current year wasn't much of an improvement: 'If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.'

"Don't worry, though, I will spare you all howls of despair — but the brute facts aren't that pretty and there is redemption in a happy ending. In short, just at Christmas week my wife, Rita, fell and broke an ankle and perhaps other foot bones, which initiated a long winter, first in surgery, then in a rehabilitation facility learning to walk safely again, and finally with home care, which only ended recently. Plans for a winter cruise had to be scrapped, leaving us at the mercy of a really bitter winter. OK, OK, it should end there, but it didn't.

"It was my turn to wrench an arm practically out of its shoulder socket in an unlucky descent from a Chicago Metra (suburban) train, and only a short while later to fall backward, landing precisely on that shoulder. Which meant that all the weeks since then passed with me unable to use my right arm, requiring up to the present day the help of a couple of aides to shave, shower and dress me, and make breakfast and perform other household chores for us both. Likewise, I need a walker to get around and one or the other of the caretakers to accompany me in case it slips out of my control and dumps me on the pavement again, to be rescued. It destroys all possibility of accomplishing any work before noon.

"Such is life in one's 90s, so I know many — if not most — of us in the Class of '43 could match these stories and more, though I hope you haven't.

"However, there is a happy ending. I can't travel alone, or at least not without daunting difficulty, but toward the end of May, helped by my daughter and son-in-law, I attended the graduation of my 'middle' granddaughter, Miriam Rich, from Harvard with a Ph.D. in history and a job as a lecturer at Yale in hand. And while exercising my grandfatherly bragging rights, I point again to Miriam's older sister, Abigail, who is in San Francisco providing legal aid to asylum seekers, which, if I were more religious, I would say was surely the Lord's work.

"So there's my report. Please, all of you out there, don't leave me to be the sole and therefore lonesome contributor to this column."

## 1944

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

CCT, and your classmates, would love to hear from you! Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

## 1945

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

No news this quarter! Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

## 1946

**Bernard Sunshine**  
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New York, NY 10023  
bsuns1@gmail.com

No updates for this issue, but please do take a moment to share an update with the class. Wishing you a happy and healthy fall season.

## 1947

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

Nothing to share this time! Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

### COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| BC    | Barnard College   |
| BUS   | Columbia Business School                                    |
| CP    | Pharmaceutical Sciences                                     |
| DM    | College of Dental Medicine                                  |
| GS    | School of General Studies                                   |
| GSAPP | Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  |
| GSAS  | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences                        |
| HN    | Institute of Human Nutrition                                |
| JRN   | Graduate School of Journalism                               |
| JTS   | Jewish Theological Seminary                                 |
| LAW   | Columbia Law School   |
| LS    | Library Service   |
| NRS   | School of Nursing   |
| PH    | Mailman School of Public Health                             |
| PS    | College of Physicians and Surgeons                          |
| SEAS  | The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science |
| SIPA  | School of International and Public Affairs                  |
| SOA   | School of the Arts  |
| SPS   | School of Professional Studies                              |
| SW    | School of Social Work                                       |
| TC    | Teachers College  |
| UTS   | Union Theological Seminary                                  |

## 1948

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Alvin N. Eden writes: "I am happy to report that I have been very lucky — still able to practice pediatrics and teach third-year medical students at my age. Next project is writing my memoirs without delay. I would like to hear from any classmate whether they remember me."

CCT, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

## 1949

**John Weaver**  
2639 E. 11th St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
wudchpr@gmail.com

**William Chinowsky, Arthur Feder, Joseph Levie, Marvin Lipman, William Lubic, Richard Sachs and**

**John Weaver:** That is the roster of attendees at our 70th reunion. Jane Billings (guest of William Chinowsky), Ruth Lubic and Naomi Lipman, steadfast members of our dwindling group, joined us for a warm and loving journey down memory lane.

We had a stimulating visit by and discussion with Dean James J. Valentini. The focus was on the admissions process and the growing diversity of the College student body. The impression with which I was left is one of admiration for the dean. He provided a reassurance that the College is in good hands and is approaching the rapid changes in demographics with a positive and constructive attitude. I think we can all take heart that the Core is in safe hands. And, if you share my conviction

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tion regarding the importance of the Core, the political future of our land will be well tended by the next and future graduating classes of our beloved alma mater.

I am writing this in the midst of the July heat wave and am conserving energy with the aid of a fan and the classic "window" AC. By the time you are reading this, cooler heads and hearts — to say nothing of armpits — will prevail and we can look forward to the changing seasons as well as the growing intensity of the 2020 election season. Let us all hope for sanity, intelligence and integrity to prevail as we make the choices that may well determine the continued existence of the pursuit "to form a more perfect union."

## 1950

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
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**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
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Happy fall, Class of 1950! Please take a moment to send in your news for a future issue, and be well.

From **David Berger**: "After 25 years in Madison, Wis., we're still enjoying all this university town has to offer. Here's a status report, in the form of a short poem I recently wrote:

#### Ambling

My body is ambling  
toward the end of  
its useful life.

Not all the structure and hydraulics  
are in topflight working order.  
Sometimes the end is in sight.

But life is good:  
every friend is a blessing,  
and each day a gift.

From **Arthur Thomas**: "In 1947-49 I rowed in competition in Columbia College crews in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and

Pennsylvania. I rowed in lightweight crews with the exception of one race.

"I remember the positive influences of all the coaches: Stan Smith, Ed Taylor, Bill Hayer and Hube Glendon. I remember, too, that the University chaplain, Chaplain Knox, was a great oarsman on the Hudson River.

"In the morning I would take classes at Amsterdam Avenue and 116th Street at the Van Am Quad, and in the spring and fall in the afternoon I would be practicing with my confrères on the waters of the Spuyten Duyvil and Harlem Rivers. At least two of the members of the crew had Dutch surnames.

"My last employer before I retired was a Dutch company for whom I worked for a time in Hoboken and on Park Avenue.

"My life, one may say, started with the Dutch when in 1943 as a student in school on 91st Street off Amsterdam Avenue I received a *Times*

*Current Events* book prize, *Van Loon's Lives* by Hendrik Willem Van Loon, who also autographed my copy, 'Arthur Thomas, his book. Hendrik Willem Van Loon May 1943."

## 1951

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
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From **David Kettler** GSAS'60:  
"Two items of news. First, I retired from my post-retirement employment — which lasted 29 years — at Bard College on my 89th birthday, July 1, 2019. And second, I finished a book (with a collaborator, Thomas Wheatland) on my Columbia teacher in political theory, Franz L. Neumann, which was scheduled to appear toward the end of July. It is the monumentally long sequel to an article on Neumann that I published a few years after his death. He was a major figure for my generation, but he also has much to teach us all in the age of Trump. I hope the book will be read and discussed."

**Edgar "Yogi" Coghlin** sent a nice handwritten letter: "I enjoyed the Class Note from Howard Hansen '52 in the Summer 2019 issue depicting that great 1950-51 basketball team. I remember that team, as I was a ticket-taker for most of

the home games. It brought back fond memories of the 1951 baseball team. We were honored with a trip to Brazil and Puerto Rico that summer. The mission was to promote the game at these locations, plus a 'free' weekend in Rio. Andy Coakley was the head coach, but Johnny Balquist CC 1932 was head coach for this trip. The lineup was Don Kimtis '52, catcher; Tony Misho '52, first base; Jack Rohan '53, second base; Bobby Walker '52, third base; Lee Guittar '53, shortstop; Walt Mitardy '53, left field; me, center field; **Tom Powers**, right field; Kermit Tracy '52, pitcher; and Gordie Martin '52, pitcher.

"As I recall, we were undefeated, or close to it! I remember a phone call I received while in Puerto Rico, from my dad, wanting to know my return home date. I told him, 'Thursday.' His reply: 'Good, because you have been drafted and must report this Monday.'

"I became a Marine Corps private that Monday, followed by Parris Island, San Diego and Pendleton, ultimately becoming an officer candidate (Quantico), for possible selection to officer training. Survived one month of 'hell,' and made the grade. Spent eight months in Korea and received an award for valor in combat. Was active duty for two and half years and reserve for 10 years. Retired as a major, USMC.

"Would love to hear from any of the old teammates. Forgive me if I left anyone out!"

*CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

## 1952

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
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From **Howard Hansen**: "In the Summer 2019 issue I mentioned that the 1967-68 basketball team was inaugurated into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame prior to the 1950-51 undefeated team's acceptance. As previously stated, the 1967-68 team had

a 16-point average victory over opponents, but I left out that the 1950-51 team had a 21-point average margin of victory!

"The travel team included Jack Molinas '53, **Bob Reiss**, **Al Stein**, **Howard Rosenfeld**, John Azary '51, Bob Sullivan SEAS'51, Paul 'White' Brandt '53, Stan Maratos '53, Lee Guittar '53, Jack Rohan '53, Frank Lewis '51, Tom Powers '51, coach Lou Rossini, trainer Red Romo and manager Gerry Evans '51.

"Other facts of interest: They averaged 16 more rebounds than opponents. Three of the top-10 scorers in the Ivy League were Azary, Molinas and Reiss. The New York All-Met team, which was the center of college basketball in those days, listed Azary, Molinas and Reiss among the top 10 players. Azary, the team captain, was voted 'Most Valuable' in the Ivy League and 'Most Outstanding' in the Metropolitan area as the Haggerty Award winner. This team's main component was that they epitomized that there was no 'I' in 'team.'

"Us football guys gave out and sold programs at the home games and can vouch for the skilled team effort.

"Red Romo was also an outstanding trainer for football. He ended his long career at the Naval Academy, spending a good 30 years at Annapolis, and was honored with a building in his name."

## 1953

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Greetings, Class of 1953. Share your stories, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending a note to either of the addresses at the top of this column. Your classmates would love to hear from you!

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
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brecherservices@aol.com

It was grand seeing and celebrating with nearly two score classmates, including many wives and four widows of classmates, the 65th





LYNN SAVILLE

Members of the Class of 1954 (and four widows of classmates) at their 65th reunion on campus.

anniversary of graduation over the long weekend of May 31–June 1. As requested by class members, our events and activities were concentrated on CC'54-specific interests and speakers over two-plus days. While many "regular" reunionites attended, it was gratifying to our 11-member Reunion Committee that several "never before" or "not-for-many-years" classmates attended. Our mission was to connect, reconnect, and self-assess how some Class of Destiny members may have fulfilled their destinies. (The Summer 2019 CCT Class Notes covered major events of our reunion.)

We used a dedicated hospitality and meeting room in Alfred Lerner Hall both for events and presentations and for our meeting and greeting headquarters. Highlights included an open mic session at which we heard from several classmates about their lives and challenges; two sessions with panels of Columbia students and CC'54 classmates, one on facing the realities of today's world, and one on the values and significance of a Columbia education then and now; a dramatic presentation by the director of Columbia's Center for Climate and Life; and presentations at two dinners by two special guest speakers who took their turn on the rostrum with several of our classmates.

At long last, we launched our Class of '54 Bicentennial Ladies Club (see letter later in the column), comprising classmates' widows who have always felt "part of the class." We were joined by Regina

Kenan BC'54, GSAS'74 (**Peter Kenen**), Phyllis Skomorowsky (**Peter Skomorowsky**), Marilyn Talal (**Norman Talal PS'58**), and Eleanor Frommer (**Herb Frommer DM'57**). Several other interested ladies were sorry they were not able to participate this time. The concept for the BLC was based on a hoped-for class/College family relationship and continuity that would be valued by all involved. (Note: We will gladly share our process and likewise solicit recommendations from other reunion classes.)

A special treat at our 65th was one session arranged with the cooperation of the United Nations Association of New York, meeting with two extraordinary, just-graduated Columbia alumni, Ji-Young Kim SIPA'19, recipient of a UNANY Summer Scholars Fellowship (for Egypt), and Erick Regalado SIPA'19, recipient of a UNANY Summer Scholars Fellowship (for Belarus). The discussions and Q&A covered the world, and all attendees concluded that the world might soon be in good hands.

Closer to home, another special event was a "super panel" of our classmates (**Larry Scharer PS'58** and **Jack Blechner**) joining with two just-graduated alumni (Jordan Singer '19 and Adam Resheff '19) and one student (Joon Baek '21) to discuss the significance, advantages, and challenges of a Columbia education 65-plus years apart. I moderated both programs, and all of us at both sessions were impressed by what we learned from young adults

the ages of our grandkids. The College panelists were enlisted with the help of *Spectator's* editor-in-chief.

Our opening speaker at Friday's welcome dinner in Lerner Hall was Roosevelt Montás '95, GSAS'04, a frequent guest speaker at our reunions who began teaching in the English department in 2004 and who later was director of the Center for the Core Curriculum for 10 years. Currently, Roosevelt is senior lecturer in American studies specializing in Antebellum American literature and culture, with a particular interest in American national identity. He addressed the challenges to keeping the Core relevant in the 21st century and on the cutting edge of liberal education in a rapidly changing world.

Roosevelt was followed by Dean James J. Valentini, who also is vice president for undergraduate education and who personally welcomed our attendees. Our concluding speaker on Friday evening was our valedictorian, **Henry Buchwald PS'57**, who came from Minneapolis with his wife, Emilie BC'57; daughter, Amy; and her husband, Danny Woodburn, a well-known TV and movie actor. Henry delivered his update, "Valedictory 2.0," and we noted that similarities 65 years apart were numerous while differences in American life — externally and technically — have dramatically evolved. Henry is working on a project on which I tried unsuccessfully to assist him, and about which I quote a recent letter of his: "Thank you for researching the information about the percentage of graduates going into medical school from Columbia College at various time spans. I am dedicating several of my columns in *General Surgery News* to the question of the doctor-patient relationship and how it has been destroyed in the current world of medicine as business. This would have been a nice piece of information. I believe that today's young doctors, who so readily accept being employees in a job, do not have the same enthusiasm of my generation and those before us. I believe this status will eventually lower health-care standards in this country."

Now there's a challenge to the scores of CC'54 doctors and others who may want to weigh in.

Henry, thanks for never having stopped being provocative.

Our farewell gala dinner on Saturday night, in Butler Library, was highlighted by **Saul Turteltaub LAW'57**, who regaled us with his take on Hollywood wit, and the Hon. **Alvin Hellerstein**, who sent us off, citing some of his cases, with a reinforced and nuanced understanding of the law.

**Stanely Fine PS'57** wanted us to know that "it was wonderful seeing some of my old friends at reunion. **Hank Buchwald** and I go back many years and we try to see each other whenever he comes to town. On Sunday we visited with **Simeon Pollack PS'57**, who wasn't able to make the reunion, and had a wonderful afternoon."

Thanks, Stan, for reconnecting. Want to sign up for our 70th?

**Ted Spiegel**, photographer extraordinaire and chronicler of today's West Point, once again shared one of his special productions with all our reunion attendees. His annual wall calendar, this time of the Hudson River Valley, was a "take home" appreciated by all.

**Richard Bernstein SEAS'55**, taking a breather from his medical practice and diabetes specialty, wrote — and distributed in the hospitality room — a story called "Big Ben," about his time as a student in Benjamin P. Dailey's advanced chemistry course and his subsequent life leading to medical school (announced at our 25th reunion at Arden House) and his career as physician, innovator, and researcher. Dick will be glad to send you a copy on request.

On Friday afternoon we were wowed by a presentation with video and charts that might well have made an impact even in the White House on the doubters about climate change. The Thomas Alva Edison/Con Edison Professor, Dean of Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Director of the Center for Climate and Life in Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory **Peter B. de Menocal** educated and enlightened a capacity audience of classmates about the undeniable threat of man-made enhanced climate catastrophe that the world is facing.

**Ron Sugarman**, who expedited and introduced the Lamont-Doherty event, thanked Professor de Menocal for "a most personable and extraordinary presentation ... bringing insight, facts, and data to share with us, and responding to our



questions with great clarity and a teacher's desire to connect."

The professor's coverage addressed topics such as, "Where are we on the continuum? What are the principal contributors to the accelerating rate of temperature increase? How long can temperatures continue to rise unabated before the world would be facing catastrophic consequences? Can the rise still be mitigated, halted, reversed? What needs to change *now*? Where is the point of no return?"

"I am happy that you enjoyed the book that took me 60 years to make. I thought that you of all people would appreciate the images made by a very young and innocent American ..." writes **Stanley Fellman** in acknowledging my appreciation for his gift, a slim volume titled *Europe Then*, containing some of the most memorable black and white photographs I have seen in a single collection.

They were taken during 1957-59 while Stan was a dental officer in the Army, stationed in Germany. Stan practiced dentistry in Hartford, Conn., for more than 50 years, but his passion has been and continues to be black and white image making, and he continues to work in his darkroom. He writes, "Thank you and the Reunion Committee again for taking all the time and effort to make anniversary number 65 very special."

Thank you, Stan, for your service and your art. (Some of the images in the book are in the permanent collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art, in Connecticut.)

**David Bardin LAW'56** reports that **James Taaffe** of Tuscaloosa, Ala., died on July 3, 2019, as per information from his widow, Allison, who said, "Jim always praised his Columbia professors as model teachers and scholars. English was his subject and John Milton his forte. He earned his master's ('56) and Ph.D. ('60) in English at the University of Indiana. He taught English at Williams, Vassar, Case Western Reserve University and the University of Alabama. He co-authored the *Milton Handbook* (with Holly Hanford) in 1970."

Jim is also survived by daughter Lauren and son Patrick. He had entered Columbia from his hometown in Ohio.

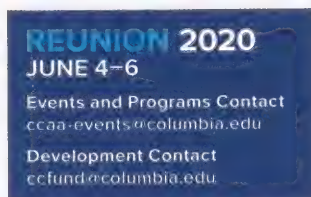
One of our class widows, Eleanor Frommer, who attended the reunion, wrote in response to my request

for suggestions, "... my thanks for including me in the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the Bicentennial Class of 1954, on behalf of Herb. He would have loved every moment of it. I would be interested in meeting regularly, formally or informally, as Regina (Kenen) mentioned. Is it possible to come up with a different designation? 'Ladies' Clubs' went out with the Fifties ... Perhaps there are others who would like to join us."

You bet, Ellie, and beginning with you four, you all now "own" the BLC, which was a working title, and we hope you will be represented on our 70th anniversary Reunion Committee.

That's it for this Fall issue, gents. Thank you all for your input and support for our 65th. Join our 70th Reunion Committee. Meanwhile, as always, write, email, and/or call, and be well, do well, do good — help cure the world. Excelsior!

## 1955



**Gerald Sherwin**  
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Next year promises to be a terrific one for our reunion. You won't want to miss out on the 65th anniversary of our graduation. We expect classmates from far and wide and near and far. You will be part of exciting speeches, awards, the dean's noteworthy update and more. We expect classmates such as **Barry Pariser**, **Stan Zinberg**, **Marv Winell**, **Jesse Roth**, **Harry Scheiber**, **Ed Lubin**, **Doug Lasher**, **Matt Loonin** and, of course, **Herb Johnson** from Black Mountain, N.C., and **Dan Wakefield**, the noted author from Indianapolis. From the West Coast are **Richard Mazze** and **David Gordon**. We will have locals like **Chuck Garrison**, **Bob Brown** and **Norm Goldstein**, who tells us he is still busy and loving it. **Jerry Catuzzi** and his buddy **Ben Kaplan** are expected as well. **Jack Stuppin** has been in touch with us in the planning stages of some of his paintings.

The special class luncheons are still being held at Faculty House. Recent attendees have included **Anthony Viscusi**, **Roland Plottel** and **Allen Hyman**.

We have dinners being put together by **Dan Laufer** and **Alfred Gollomp**.

**Bob Schoenfeld** reminds us about his father, who was an outstanding basketball referee. Bob lives on Long Island, and we expect him to be at the festivities.

Sad news to report about the passing of **John Naley** in early July; among the funeral attendees were **George Raitt** and **Jack Freeman**.

The class will be advised about reunion events and speeches. Start planning now; you don't want to be left out. Let the good times roll.

Love to all! Everywhere!

## 1956

**Robert Sirotz**  
707 Thistle Hill Ln.  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
rrs76@columbia.edu

**Alan Broadwin**, **Al Franco** **SEAS'56** and I met for breakfast in Low Library on June 1, during Reunion Weekend, followed by the Dean's State of the College Address, then the Reunion Keynote in Alfred Lerner Hall. **John Censor** was there as well, but we couldn't find each other. **Ralph Kaslick** and **Barbara and Jerry Fine** joined us for a barbecue lunch on South Field, followed by lectures in the afternoon. Always seems like we feel 20 years younger walking on campus. We started our summer program of tennis and luncheons at **Dan Link's** club in July.

Please keep the good news coming. It is time to start planning our 65th reunion, which will be held in less than two years. We need volunteers, particularly from areas outside of the immediate Tri-State area.

From **Bob Lauterborn** we learn of his visit with **Jordan Bonfante** and **Len Wolfe**. Bob reports that Len and his wife, Ruth, have moved from New Haven, Conn., to Pennsylvania. He also reports that, although retired, he still lectures at UNC Chapel Hill, and recently met with **Steve Easton** and his wife, Elke, at a get-together he described as a "lightweight football reunion."

I took my grandson from Columbia, S.C., to the New Jersey State



**Steve Easton '56** (left) and **Bob Lauterborn '56** met up in North Carolina.

Museum in Trenton and found a metallic print on display by **Arthur Rothstein CC 1935 (1915-85)**, who founded the University Camera Club.

Sadly, I have learned of the passing of **Robert Cabat Ph.D.** His obit in *The New York Times* noted that from Columbia, which he entered as a Ford Scholar, he went on to a life fostering Spanish language and culture, and was the author of class textbooks. He also served as NYC director of foreign language education.

Keep the news coming!

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
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hdldeditor@aol.com

A report from **Mac Gimse**: "On June 4 I brought home a new bronze from the foundry. I got to suit up in leathers and help pour about 240 lbs. of 1,000-degree hot metal. It's a blast. The finished product is called *Moses in a Mushroom Cloud*. Moses saw the burning bush that did not disappear, so here he is standing in the atomic blast but he is not consumed. It's because he is holding a third set of tablets that have the Nuclear Law, or the 'New Clear Law,' to love your neighbor or kiss the world goodbye. The key is that nuclear energy has not been used in warfare since those explosions in August 1945. And we still live in dangerous times.

"The poetry that follows is *Never Again...Evermore, Children of the*





*Nuclear Holocaust*, which I began writing at age 10, when we all were kids and heard about the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Well, that was the first jolt. I've taken students to Hiroshima six times since 1977 and each time it got more raw. The poem was set to music by my composer friend, Daniel Kallman, for the St. Olaf Choir to sing in Japan and South Korea in summer 2017. It premiered in the Ordway Concert Hall in St. Paul, Minn. It had solo and spoken parts and when it ended there was silence. It made me shiver."

**Never Again...Evermore,  
Children of the Nuclear  
Holocaust**

Coils of clouds toss megatons of  
snarling chaos down onto streets  
swept dry by flames, of people  
stilled, fear-frozen in a flash.  
Watch...watch playgrounds drain  
of joy.

**Never Again** no more hurting.  
**Evermore** bring me shelter.  
Cover me with your arms  
of embrace.

**Never Again...Evermore**  
All life stops with thunders of  
hot ash blowing.  
A singe of odor breathes of melting  
leather onto hairless flesh.  
Touch...touch tiny fingers as they  
reach for coolness.  
**Never Again**...no more burning.  
**Evermore**...bring me balm.  
Lay on me your hands of healing.

**Never Again...Evermore**  
Humans fall in heaps of  
walls, tumbling,  
scattered over stains of ground,  
each body  
etched into shadows of amber halo.  
Listen...listen as kindergartens fade  
to their final breath.  
**Never Again**...no more suffering.  
**Evermore**...bring me gentleness.  
Sing me your songs of soothing.

**Never Again...Evermore**  
Nothing remains but eternity to  
stretch into, leaving  
the last terror shown forever  
shouting on my face.  
Hear...hear little ones sobbing  
inside their screams.  
**Never Again**...no more crying.  
**Evermore**...bring me quiet.  
Give me angel's wings to fly away  
from tears.

**Never Again...Evermore**  
Child-angels lie in wait for the  
embers of their  
sintered lives to cool inside their  
wounded souls.  
Dream...dream of children dawning  
to rekindle their youthful glow.  
**Never Again**...no more nightmares.  
**Evermore**...bring me  
dancing into a world with joy in life.

**Never Again...Evermore**  
With memories of the nuclear  
holocaust, I pledge **never again**  
to harm the sweetness of my child in  
laughter, **evermore**.  
Feel...feel the infant heartbeat  
pulsing through my veins.  
**Never Again**...no more heartache.  
**Evermore**...bring me love unending.  
Promise me peace to last beyond  
this day.

**Never Again...Evermore**

## 1958

**Peter Cohn**  
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Once again, we begin on a sad  
note. **Art Radin** died suddenly and  
unexpectedly on April 24. His wife,  
Miriam Katowitz BUS'74, shared  
some thoughts with us: "Art had  
continued to go to the office four  
days a week working with clients  
as an accountant, having given up  
doing audits about four years ago.  
While Art claimed to have had  
the same job for 66 years, having  
started working at 15 in his father's  
CPA firm, he in fact had a long and  
rich career doing everything from  
audits of large and small entities  
(both public and private), to taxes  
for corporations and individuals, to  
writing manuals, and reviewing and  
writing articles for *The CPA Journal*  
on a variety of accounting topics.  
The latter ranged from overload  
of requirements to sustainability  
reporting. I had the pleasure of writ-  
ing some of the articles jointly with  
him. He continued to learn new  
topics, including tax law, but still  
found time to be on the editorial  
board of *The CPA Journal*. He had  
many clients for more than 30 years,  
asking only that his clients be nice

folks, offer interesting work and pay  
his reasonable rates.

"Aside from his work, Art had a  
variety of interests, including singing  
in many choral groups, attending a  
history book club (and two James  
Joyce book clubs), reading lots of  
magazines and newspapers, biking,  
skiing and spending time with his  
family. The family included three  
children, a son-in-law and daughter-  
in-law, and four grandchildren. Art  
was pleased to say that he had the  
privilege of wiping seven bottoms!  
Finally, I want to add that he much  
enjoyed seeing his classmates, espe-  
cially at the monthly lunches that he  
hosted at the Princeton Club."

**Ernie Brod** comments on  
Miriam's last remark: "Many years  
ago — nobody remembers exactly  
how long ago — Art took on the job  
of coordinating the monthly Class of  
1958 lunch, which he carried out with  
his patented wit and style. It was only  
appropriate that 16 of us attended the  
May 14 lunch (organized and hosted  
by **Tom Ettinger**) to reminisce about  
him. Miriam joined us, giving her the  
opportunity to see where and how the  
lunches took place and to hear our  
stories about a friend whose cheerful  
manner and offbeat humor will be  
sorely missed."

To that we can only add, "Amen."  
Other attendees at the May  
lunch, in addition to Tom and

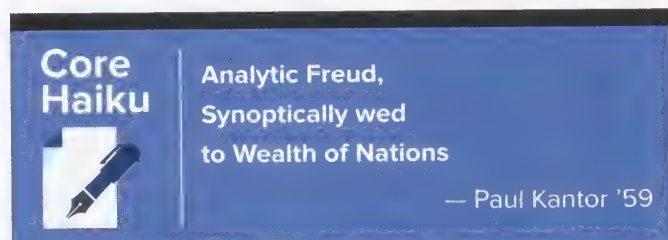
they had done in 2018 against Yale.  
Perhaps this fall will see football  
as competitive as the spring teams  
were. Let's hope so.

As noted, the Class Lunch is  
now hosted by **Tom Ettinger** and  
is held on the second Tuesday of  
the month in the Grill Room of the  
Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31  
per person). Email Tom if you plan  
to attend, even up to the day before:  
tpe3@columbia.edu.

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
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Our class held its 60th reunion May  
30–June 1. Our reunion began with  
a well-attended Class of '59 recep-  
tion in the Dodge Fitness Center's  
Lou Gehrig Lounge, near the site  
of the old University Hall. The  
next morning, breakfast was served  
in John Jay, where the strength of  
the CC'59 contingent seemed to  
outnumber several of the younger  
anniversary classes. Friday morning  
activities were an individual's choice.  
Lunch was served under a tent on  
South Field. This was followed



Ernie, were **Joe Dorinson, Harvey  
Feuerstein, Peter Gruenberger,  
Paul Herman, Dave Marcus,  
Bernie Nussbaum, Howie Orlin**  
(and his wife, Anita), **Shelly Raab,  
Howard Presant, Bob Waldbaum,  
Eli Weinberg** and **Mark Weiss**.

We end this report on a brighter  
note: As predicted, the tennis team  
won the Ivy title (the streak is now  
five in a row) and the baseball team  
finished second in the league stand-  
ings, thereby qualifying for the Ivy  
championship playoff series against  
first-place Harvard. Unfortunately,  
our lads could not win the title, as

by the first of two sessions titled  
"Looking Back, An Opportunity to  
Hear from Each Other," in which  
classmates were offered the oppor-  
tunity to describe, in most cases,  
their lives after graduation and the  
impact of the College on their lives.  
After attending, or not, one of many  
receptions or lectures that followed,  
we gathered at V&T for pizza, wine  
and good conversation.

Saturday began with breakfast  
in the Low Rotunda, with other  
anniversary classes, and hosted  
by Dean James J. Valentini. We  
then retired to the C.V. Starr East



Asian Library in Kent, where we resumed the "Looking Back" open mic presentations by classmates, followed by lunch. It is my intention over the next few issues of the Class Notes to include the presentations that people sent to me. You need not have attended reunion or presented at the open mic sessions to send a contribution to me. It might take a while to be published, but if I am successful in setting up a location on the web, all your contributions will be available online.

The final event of our reunion was our class dinner, held in Faculty House on Saturday. After dinner, the chair of our Reunion Committee, **Steve Buchman**, made some remarks and then read the speech prepared by **Steve Trachtenberg**.

reunion. Leading them has been, yes, a challenge, but also a privilege. Someone has said chairing a reunion committee is like herding cats: true, but in this case those cats are Columbia lions and that makes all the difference.

"Special thanks to **Joel Rein**, who suggested having open mic sessions as the format for our class events and for his Solomonian direction of one of those sessions; he brought tact, patience and humor to the challenge.

"There is one more major thank you, and that's to you, our classmates, and your spouses, significant others and guests. It's really all of you who deserve our thanks for your energy, enthusiasm and sharing these last two and a half days. You are the real stars of his show. From

and have them thank you, the Class of 1959, for being here, being you, and making this 60th reunion one of the great memories of our Columbia experience."

Steve then read the talk prepared by **Steve Trachtenberg**. (I will do my best to make the text of his talk available to all.)

The dinner, and the reunion, ended with a rendition of *Sans Souci*.

I think that most, if not all, who attended the reunion had a very good time. I know that at least some who were unable to attend the reunion were unhappy with their inability to come. Let us wish a full recovery to **Dave Clark**, **Ted Grasse**, **Ben Miller**, **Steve Trachtenberg** and **Bill Zangwell**, and anyone else whose medical problems prevented them attending, so that they can join all of us at the next reunion.

I hope to print the shorter presentations in our Class Notes as well as submissions from classmates for whom time did not permit to make oral presentations, as well as from classmates not able to attend the reunion. I hope to be able to make all written submissions online.

**Bob Nelson** contributed this to the conversation: "*The Individual*." We were all very bright; our mothers told us so. In fact, we would not have been admitted if we were not. The Core Curriculum opened our eyes to a world that, for the most part, was unfamiliar to us. Yes, we may have had some exposure to literature, politics, philosophy, art or music, but this was different and did change us.

"We made good friends during those years but were always expected to work on our own, not to cooperate in our work products. It was all individual and no teamwork unless you were involved with extracurricular activities or athletics.

"This attitude persisted for the most part into grad school, or what I call 'vocational training' (otherwise known as engineering, law or medical school). Not until these studies were completed did we begin to work as teams.

"*The Team*." As we moved along in our careers we were exposed to different worlds, different cultures. For me it was Virginia and Cincinnati of the early '60s. Neither were strongholds of civil liberties but there were liberals as well as conservatives. Naval service was another

opportunity to learn from a society to which you had not been exposed. You had to learn to keep your eyes and ears open and learn!

"*Student and Teacher*." As a resident physician I learned from my seniors and attending physicians. I also taught junior residents and medical students. After beginning my own practice, I continued to 'teach' resident physicians over the next several decades. I say 'teach' because I was always learning from them. I was also learning from my patients and my colleagues.

"*Our Future*." We can all continue to learn from those around us. Many have retired from their profession but can still stay involved in learning and teaching. Mentoring students, volunteering in libraries or hospitals, working with community service organizations and so forth are great ways to continue to give back some of the gifts that Columbia has given us.

"And always remember to ask the question that I would ask my patients and you should ask those around you: 'How can I help?'"

## 1960

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

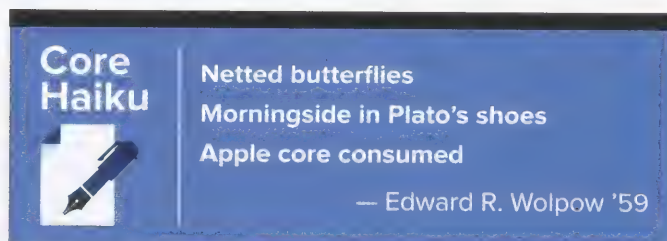
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Congratulations to **Terrence McNally**, who was honored on June 9 at the 73rd Annual Tony Awards with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Described as "a probing and enduring dramatist" and "one of the greatest contemporary playwrights the theater world has yet produced," not only has Terrence's career spanned an extraordinary six decades, but his work also has been remarkably diverse, including plays, musicals and operas. In his acceptance speech, Terrence noted that "the world needs artists more than ever to remind us what kindness, truth and beauty are."

In 2018 Terrence was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is a recipient of the



**Steve Buchman** delivered the following remarks: "Hello again. After two days of reunioneering, reminiscing and moving across the campus of our memories, we've come to the final class event of our 60th reunion weekend — the closing remarks of Steve Trachtenberg. But this year there's a twist: Steve was not able to join us, as you know. He's in London, recovering well, and, as he says, looking forward to joining us at our 65th reunion. He has, however, been a presence at this reunion and in our thoughts each day.

"It's been an honor and a pleasure chairing the Class of '59 Reunion Committee in organizing our program for you, all with the goal of making this a special and memorable 60th ... and there are people to thank.

"Our Alumni Office planners and 'handlers': they've guided us since last September with ideas, logistical support and their presence at each of our events. Please thank them with your applause.

"I want to again acknowledge the Reunion Committee and ask them all to stand and be recognized for their contributions, efforts and commitment to their classmates and this

our rain-soaked Thursday evening reception, when you shed your sodden raingear and discomfort in the lobby and moved into Lou Gehrig Lounge for our first meeting: the vitality in the room was infectious and ran us over schedule by about an hour. At the opening John Jay breakfast on Friday, when the audience was asked for a show of hands of classes present, our 60th attendees far outnumbered the 10th, 25th and 50th grads who were there. At Friday's lunch on South Field, the three tables we'd had set aside for the Class of '59 were insufficient; we needed to commandeer two more to hold us all. Our open mic sessions were more than we'd hoped for: participation, patience and attentive audiences made these very special gatherings and provided more shared memories. Our dinner at V&T last evening showed no lessening of the weekend's energy.

"The alumni staff who attended our events continued to express their amazement at our engagement and liveliness and left their registration desks to join us.

"So, I'm going to ask the Reunion Committee to stand, once again,





Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award and the Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award. He has won four Tony Awards: two for the plays *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class* and two for the musical books for *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Ragtime*. He also has written numerous TV scripts, including *Andre's Mother*, for which he won an Emmy Award. Terrence has received two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Rockefeller Grant, four Drama Desk Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, two Obie Awards and three Hull-Warriner Awards from the Dramatists Guild. In 1996 he was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

He wrote the libretto for the operas *Great Scott* and *Dead Man Walking*, both with music by Jake Heggie. Terrence's many plays include *Mothers and Sons*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; *A Perfect Ganes*; *The Visit*; *The Full Monty*; *Corpus Christi*; *Bad Habits*; *Next*; *The Ritz*; *Anastasia*; *It's Only a Play*; *Where Has Tommy Flow-ers Gone?* and *The Stendhal Syndrome*.

Terrence has been a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild since 1970 and was VP 1981–2001.

And, not to be forgotten, in 1992 Terrence was presented by the College a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

Distinguished achievement, indeed.

**Tom Hamilton** reflects on his work in 1963 at Grumman, which had received the contract to build the lunar module intended as the spacecraft to carry the first people to the moon. Tom had just started work at a well-known computer manufacturer with a commitment that he would work in Manhattan, thus enabling him to continue his pursuit of graduate studies in astronomy. Soon after he started, however, he was told that he would be reassigned to its Poughkeepsie, N.Y., office. One of his colleagues forwarded his name to an engineer at Grumman, who was recruiting people to work on an Apollo Project contract to build what was then referred to as the Lunar Excursion Module. Tom's educational background in astronomy made him an attractive candidate and he was invited for a job interview at the Grumman headquarters in Bethpage, N.Y., to be followed by a security clearance procedure.

The job interview went well; the security clearance, a tad less smoothly. The lengthy security questionnaire inquired whether the applicant or any family member was or had been a member of any of a list of organizations deemed security threats, or of any organization not listed that advocated the violent overthrow of "the government." Tom, committed to responding truthfully, acknowledged having relatives who had engaged in activity to overthrow the government. The head of security suggested that he delete the entry as "it would cause trouble." Tom refused, whereupon the head of security said, "It's on your head, dammit; go ahead." Tom got the job, and security clearance, despite the conduct of grandfathers several generations removed who had fired at the king's troops in April 1775 as they marched toward Bunker Hill.

Tom was assigned to a group that included draftsmen, computer programmers, a mathematician and a variety of engineers. He was the only one with an astronomy background. His main job for the three years working on Apollo, as he explains it, "was determining a back-up technique for lunar orbit rendezvous, radar accuracy requirements for the on-board radars during the return of the LM from the Moon to the orbiting CSM (Command and Service Module), fuel usage for the RCS (reaction control system) and a few other minor issues."

One of Tom's singular experiences was a simulated test flight. Situated on the roof of one of the Grumman buildings was a large blue sphere. Tom describes it: "The inside had been adapted for a 'full mission simulator' that astronauts were expected to use in training. But first, select Grumman employees were sent to test it, and test themselves. Someone decided my work on the planned lunar orbit rendezvous of the LM and CSM made my flying the simulator a good idea. It was truly impressive, with a view of a shrinking lunar surface as I ascended into space to link up with the CSM. I felt embarrassed when the control panel showed I had rammed into the CSM at 19 feet per second, when the limit was under 10 feet per second. But I was told most people missed rendezvous and had the LM wander off in lunar orbit, while a few crashed back on the moon. I was congratulated for an excellent first (and only) flight."

**Neil Markee** submits the following synopsis of his post-Columbia life. As a member of NROTC, Neil spent the six years after graduation on active duty: the first three on an old LST ("landing ship, tank") and the next three putting a new LPH ("launch and recovery platform, helicopter") into service. As Neil describes the latter assignment, "I worked for some of the best officers around. Working directly for the XO [executive officer] during commission provided a seminar on leadership. As the radio officer on the amphibious forces flag ship during the Cuban Missile Crisis, I was offered a ringside seat for some of the events."

After separating from the Navy, Neil joined Educational & Institutional Cooperative Services, a nonprofit purchasing and contracting cooperative serving the needs of higher education. For the ensuing seven years he was responsible for E&I's activities in the Northeast, from Maine to Pittsburgh. During that time period he married Susan Haley, an elementary school teacher, and their daughter, Jennifer, was born.

"Seven years later," Neil continues, "I moved to higher education's professional association for campus purchasing officers as its CEO. Although we were based on Long Island I spent a good bit of time in Washington, D.C., where many of the other higher professional associations are based. Together we represented the business side of higher education in dealing with the federal government and other organizations."

"Twenty-five years later, Susan and I announced our early retirement — only for me to be offered an attractive position with a San Francisco-based dot-com. Working from home and the Bay Area as an advisor was an interesting experience. As my two-year contract was winding down, we were acquired by SciQuest and I again planned to retire for the second time, only to learn that the online publication we had launched had been acquired by the two nonprofits I had worked for earlier, and they offered me a position as editor-in-chief and a major content provider for the publication. The job was to be from home, part-time. I held the position for 22 years until earlier this year I again retired."

"Susan and I live roughly six months a year in Port Jefferson on

Long Island and six months in Palm City on Florida's east coast, adjoining the towns of Stewart and Jupiter. We plan to eventually become full-time Florida residents. Our daughter, Jennifer, is heavily involved in the professional show jumping equestrian community, based in Wellington, Fla., to our south."

Keep in mind that the Class of 1960 has a 60th reunion coming up. Sixty years? Is that possible? Good health to all; send me your notes; and hope to see you at the 60th.

## 1961

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**Tom Lippman's** latest book was recently published: *Crude Oil, Crude Money: Aristotle Onassis, Saudi Arabia and the CIA* is the story of a little-known Cold War drama with a big cast of colorful and ethically dubious characters. The king of Saudi Arabia gave Aristotle Onassis a contract that would have broken the American monopoly on the Saudi oil industry and disrupted the maritime shipping business worldwide. Seeing this as a possible opening to Soviet meddling in Saudi Arabia, Eisenhower ordered the Dulles brothers to make sure the contract never took effect. This book is about how they did it.

Tom is a Washington-based author and journalist who has specialized in Middle Eastern affairs and American foreign policy for more than three decades, and is an experienced analyst of Saudi Arabian affairs and U.S.-Saudi relations. He is a former Middle East bureau chief of *The Washington Post*, and also was that newspaper's oil and energy reporter. Throughout the 1990s, Tom covered foreign policy and national security for the *Post*, traveling frequently to Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East. As an independent writer, he has visited Saudi Arabia every year but one in the last decade. Tom discussed his new book at the New York City class lunch in July; it's available on Amazon.

Tom is an adjunct scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., where he is the principal



media contact on Saudi Arabia and U.S.-Saudi relations. He was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and was formerly an adjunct senior fellow there.

A project **Gene Milone** has been working on for the past six years has come to fruition with the acceptance of a paper on the project by *The Astronomical Journal*. The work involved running more than 70 models and exploring nearly every physical nuance that can affect the motions and brightness of an eclipsing binary star. This one, DS Andromedae, lies in a star cluster some 1,500 light years from Earth. The work permits us to obtain its distance, among other properties, to high precision and reasonably high accuracy, and to understand a little better the age and distance of the star cluster as well.

Gene was keen to finish this work and have it published before eye problems and the inevitable consequences of aging take their toll.

**Bob Pollack** continues as a professor of biological sciences at Columbia, a position he has held since 1978. He hopes to write at least one book during his academic-year-long sabbatical, which began July 1. But just in case, he will continue to co-teach a course on human identity with his daughter, Dr. Marya Pollack '87, PH'92.

Bob and his wife, Amy, sold their Vermont schoolhouse when the commute got to be too much — six hours! Currently, they escape up the Hudson to Saugerties, N.Y. — two hours and they are in the woods. Their motto: Everyone alive is

equally part of the future. That's one of the reasons Bob has not retired; sharing ideas with people the age of their grandson is exciting, he says, and also it lifts the burden of being in charge. And as a professor, getting paid to do it is a gift!

**Bob Salman** is teaching a course on the history of impeachment this fall at Brookdale Community College. It's open to political science students and is part of Brookdale's Lifelong Learning Program.

Bob and his wife, Reva, saw **Stu Sloame** and his wife, Ellen, when the Sloames were in New York City in June.

On a sad note, I report the passing of two classmates.

**Norm Kurnit** GSAS'66 passed away on February 6, 2019. After the College, Norm went directly to GSAS, where he earned a master's in 1962 and a Ph.D. in 1966, both in physics. He spent the majority of his career working at Los Alamos National Lab and lived in Santa Fe, N.M. Norm is survived by Ellen, his wife of 50 years; two children; and two grandchildren.

**Dave Schwartz** DM'65 passed away on July 7, 2019, after a nearly seven-year battle with multiple myeloma. Dave practiced oral surgery for more than 50 years in Queens. He was on the Board of Trustees of both the Queens County Dental Society and the New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

An avid golfer, tennis player, skier, guitarist and singer, Dave was a longtime member of the Bonnie Briar Country Club, where he was the Super Senior Club Champion

in golf in 2017. He also maintained a summer home in Wellfleet, Mass., where he requested to be brought, one last time, a week before he died.

Dave is survived by his brothers, Michael and Larry; wife, Isabel; daughter, Beth Jones, of Alexandria, Va., and son-in-law, Jamie Jones; granddaughter, Isabel; grandson, James; son, John D., of New York; daughter-in-law, Amy Kean; and grandsons, Kean and Oliver.

## 1962

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All's too quiet on the 1962 front. Please help me avoid making up stories by writing in.

**Anthony Valerio** has published another acclaimed book, *Semmelweis: the Women's Doctor*. It's an intimate biography of a great mid-19th-century scientist. Anthony explores Semmelweis's complicated character, his research uncovering the causes and means to prevent childbed fever, which was then considered unpreventable and killed nearly 30 percent of new European mothers who delivered their babies in maternity hospitals. Semmelweis correctly determined that the disease was caused by doctors' failure to wash their hands effectively, and prescribed that they scrub in a solution of chlorinated lime.

Nevertheless, Semmelweis's obstetrical colleagues disdained his work and ostracized him. In 1865, he supposedly suffered a nervous breakdown and was treacherously committed to an asylum by a colleague. He died — or was he murdered? — at 47 from a gangrenous wound after being beaten by the asylum guards.

**Burt Lehman** wrote that he is reading a fascinating new book, *Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley's Bill Campbell*. Burt says "the book focuses mostly on **Bill Campbell** TC'64's extraordinary influence on some of Silicon Valley's stars and his way of coaching them how to deal with their underlings, in particular. There is a section on Bill's undergraduate and coaching days at Columbia, which are nostalgic."

Three Google executives — Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg and Alan Eagle — are the authors. Here is an excerpt from the book: "As [Columbia President] Lee C. Bollinger says, 'Bill had the highest capacity to understand the people he was working with. He had an intuitive sense of people and what motivated them and how to move them forward.' He accomplished a lot of this by looking for tension, the smoke to a problem's fire ... People would simmer, and Bill would spot it."

"Listening to more than words requires keen observation. Not just listening ... but noticing the body language and side conversations. So many of the people we talked to commented on Bill's ability to sense when people were frustrated. This is not a natural skill, but one that can be developed. You have to listen and watch."

"Jim Rudgers, who was on Bill's coaching staff at Columbia, recalls Bill's remarkable ability to see the entire field of 22 players as a play unfolded. 'Hold up a finger and look at it,' Jim says. 'That's how most of us watch football; the finger is the player with the ball. But Bill could see, recall, and assess the things that happen on the periphery as well. He brought that skill to team meetings. He wouldn't just see the speaker; he could see the entire field and gauge reactions and intents even with the people who remained silent, the ones without the ball.'"

## 1963

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I joined **Henry Black**, **Doron Gopstein** and **Lee Lowenfish** to march in the Alumni Parade of Classes on Class Day on May 21. As always, it was a great event — it's a pleasure to see the happy graduates and their families, as well as greet old friends as we proudly hoist our class banner. Join us next year.

**Gary Rachelefsky** writes, "Retirement is a word that was never part of my vocabulary; I thought of it as an end-of-life word. The brief stop before the undertaker came calling. Boy, was I wrong. After a successful and satisfying 46-year career in medicine, I was ready (and

## Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!  
What's a fun way to note it?  
Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku**. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu), and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.





luckily healthy), with my wife, Gail (married 52 years), being supportive. I could not be happier; my advice is to spend lots of time planning it and doing activities you never had the time or the energy to do. So I learned to cook, play golf (exercise and 'boy friends'), joined a couples book club (so I now read books), go to the sports club, talk to my wife, be a real poppy to my eight grandchildren, travel, spend a social evening without my patients calling and/or falling asleep. I even read *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* each morning. I volunteer at two Native American reservations helping in the care of children and adults with respiratory and allergic disorders. I still only sleep five to six hours but I need all that awake time to complete my day. I am available for free consultations."

**Henry Black** sent me the following historical footnote about how he got mentioned in Andrew Roberts's most recent biography, *Churchill: Walking With Destiny*. Henry writes, "I've been a student of WWII and an admirer of Churchill for decades. With that in mind, my wife, Benita, gifted me with an autographed letter from the great man written to Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 in

Because of this 'discovery,' Roberts, whose book was still in galleys, added the information to Chapter 15, and thanked [my wife and me] in Footnote 51 for the world to see!"

**Phil Satow** writes, "My wife, Donna GS'65, and I had the pleasure of visiting Israel during the last part of June and attending the Genesis Prize Ceremony in Jerusalem. On June 20, the prize, a \$1 million award, was granted to **Bob Kraft**. The Genesis Prize is given annually to Jewish people who have attained recognition and excellence in their fields. Bob brought 25 NFL players and their spouses who had not visited Israel before.

It was a well-attended and exciting evening, and the prize was awarded to Bob by Bibi Netanyahu. The next day I attended an American football scrimmage at the Kraft Family Sports Campus in Jerusalem, where the NFL players coached two Israeli teams."

**Ed Collier** writes, "There is an annual public affairs lecture named for my parents at the Hillcrest Jewish Center in Flushing, N.Y. (the 50th is this fall). Jim Shenton '49 spoke in 1986, and he chose immigration as his topic. Near the end of the lecture he said that his analysis of demographic trends led him to believe that if immigration policies



Four members of the Class of '63 marched at the Alumni Parade of Classes. Left to right: Doron Gopstein, Henry Black, Lee Lowenfish and Paul Neshamkin.

that last week. I hoped the summer's heat and humidity would abate and then I could reach 25,000 soon."

Hey, gang, can any of you match Don's record? I sure can't.

**Paul Gorin** writes, "Our oldest son, Dan, and his wife, Leah, who teaches high school math, have a new baby, Max Michael, and a daughter, Bailey (4), who loves being a big sister. Our younger son, David, and his barrister wife, Sally, have an 8-month-old daughter, Eleanor. Our oldest daughter, Ellen, teaches middle school in Millsboro, Del. Our youngest daughter, Emily, is finishing a mental health nurse practitioner program at the University of Delaware. My wife of 39 years, Ann, after being for 14 years the Sussex County coordinator for the non-profit Read Aloud Delaware, which arranges for volunteers to read one-on-one to at-risk children, now is a program manager for Delaware Health and Social Services.

"I've retired from an internal medicine and an allergy practice, am a member of the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild, a life member of the Delaware Medical Society and a founding member of the Seaside Jewish Community in Rehoboth Beach, Del. I met my wife in Vermont shortly after completing a fellowship at the University of Vermont in chest disease, which became a lung cancer suppressor cell study. It was this introduction to the immunology of the respiratory system that I brought to my medical practice, but that seems so long ago."

**Charles E. Miller** GSAS'66 reports the filing on July 22 in the U.S. Supreme Court of the first *amicus curiae* brief of the Association of Amicus Counsel in a case, *Peter v. NantKwest, Inc.*, involving one of the legal profession's favorite topics: court-awarded attorney fees in administrative law cases involving patent and trademark applications. The AAC, of which Charles is president and one of its founding members, is an independent nonprofit of lawyers having diverse affiliations and law practices and who, by training, scholarship, experience and breadth of discernment in their respective areas of the law, are possessed of the requisite abilities in appellate advocacy and proficiency in producing and submitting *amicus curiae* briefs as may be helpful to courts and other tribunals in cases involving issues of contention. Such briefs are designed to call attention to pertinent matters and viewpoints not previously recognized or addressed by the parties or the decisionmaker(s). Neither the AAC, nor any of its members or their other affiliations who participate in or whose name(s) appears on a brief of the AAC, will have represented a party in the case or will have otherwise had a direct financial stake in the outcome. In addition to parties supported by the AAC, non-parties represented are those wishing to express their views on issues in precedent-setting adjudications whose outcomes will affect the public interest, including their own and of others similarly situated.

**Core Haiku**

**Mukasey and Barr  
Grooved on Machiavelli  
Holder skipped that class**

— David G. Hitlin '63, GSAS'68

1931, and typed on Waldorf-Astoria stationery. The contents seemed bland and unimportant at the time (and only about three sentences long). One evening last fall, we attended a lecture by Roberts at the New-York Historical Society, where he is scholar in residence. Afterward, while dining at the restaurant, Roberts passed by our table and I had a brief moment to tell him about our letter. He handed us his card and asked us to send him an image of the letter, which we promptly did. Turned out that the three sentences in the letter contained a tiny factoid heretofore unknown by Churchill biographers (there are about 1,005 biographies of the great man).

remained the same, sometime in the early 2000s the population would be on the brink of being less than 50 percent white and that there would be a major movement to essentially close the doors to non-white immigrants and a real battle of conscience over how sincerely we believed in the myths of being the open door to the tired and poor. He then went on to brilliantly make the case for keeping the doors open. The guy called it 33 years ago."

**Don Margolis** reports, "I have been riding my bike for the last 17 years and targeted 25,000 miles when someone told me that was the circumference around the equator. Then I saw that it was only 24,901 and I reached



It is for these reasons that the AAC was conceived, established and exists: to promote and assist in advancing the science of jurisprudence through amicus briefs that advocate the correctly informed judicial development of the law in the time-honored tradition of *amici curiae* — “friends of the court.”

If you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Princeton Club. The next lunches are on September 12 and October 10.

In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next.

## 1964

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Who would have thought there is a connection between our 55th reunion and the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing? Well, our classmates who organized reunion did.

In a joint reunion effort with Columbia Engineering, the speaker at the first of two dinners was **Larry Kuznetz SEAS'64, SEAS'65**, a central figure at NASA's Mission Control in 1969. In a fascinating after-dinner talk, Larry (with accompanying PowerPoint presentation and videos) touched on topics ranging from the trial and error in making a space suit to the hierarchy at Mission Control (only one person was autho-

rized to speak with the astronauts once the flight began). He also touched on the afterlife of the mission — his two appearances on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* (were any of you on this show?) and the different complexities and risks of a trip to Mars (for example, the distance from Earth to Mars is so great that a distress call from Mars may take too long to reach Earth, or the response from Mission Control may take too long to reach Mars).

Reunion began with a Thursday evening reception in the art-filled Manhattan apartment of **Maya and Larry Goldschmidt LAW'67**, and over the next two days there were lunches on South Field and a range of tours and lectures from which to choose. Reunion concluded with a Saturday dinner at which **Phil Lopate** gave a witty, insightful and poignant reminiscence of his College experience. A standing ovation of appreciation followed, and I and others there hope Phil will reprint his talk in a future book of his essays.

**Bob Liss** and his good friend **Diane Levy** flew in for reunion from San Francisco, where Bob is a psychoanalyst. He earned a J.D. at Yale and a Ph.D. at NYU. On the website First of the Month, Bob contributes articles on basketball. His most recent (as of this writing) begins, “Damn! Those NBA playoffs take forever!” For more of that refreshing angle, go to [firstofthemonth.org/author/bob-liss](http://firstofthemonth.org/author/bob-liss).

After decades with Columbia, **Howard Jacobson LAW'67** has retired as deputy general counsel of the University. All sorts of legal issues arise for a major university like Columbia, and for many years Howie was at the center of things. He writes, “I retired on December 31, after 40 years working for Columbia. Before I came to Columbia, I served as a law clerk to federal judge William B. Herlands, and then worked for about 10 years at [what was then the] Kaye Scholer law firm, in New York.

“At the General Counsel's Office, I worked with every in-house general counsel in the University's history, beginning with the first one, John Mason Harding, through the current one, Jane E. Booth LAW'76. (Before Harding, all general counsels were members of outside law firms.) When I began there were three attorneys in the General Counsel's Office; today there are 20. Through

the years I worked on many different areas of the law, including litigations, gifts and estates, compliance with the increasing complexity of governmental regulations, and University governance and real estate. In addition, for many years I served as parliamentarian of the University Senate. What no doubt was the highlight of my work at Columbia was participating in seeking the regulatory approvals and numerous property site acquisitions needed to create the overall Manhattanville campus.

“After retirement, I have continued to serve on the board of the University-affiliated Community Impact, a nonprofit that annually serves more than 9,000 low-income residents of Harlem, Washington Heights and Morningside Heights through the work of about 900 University student volunteers.

“My wife, Kathryn, and I have planned a cruise to Alaska. We are spending more time with our children and grandchildren.”

Howie is also a regular presence at Columbia basketball games. We wish him and his family much happiness in retirement.

After attending reunion, **Dan Nussbaum**, who is at the Department of Operations Research at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., made his way to Baku, Azerbaijan, for a seminar on energy security. Dan writes: “At the seminar, the new U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan made his first public statement on U.S. energy policy in the Caspian region, and I and my team were invited to attend the July 4 celebrations at our embassy. While it was an honor to attend the celebrations, and the food and music were good, the moving moments for me were the conversations I had with foreign diplomatic, military and commercial personnel, who uniformly expressed their strong appreciation for the consistent and principled leadership that the United States provides in this strategic and highly contested part of the world. I know that we hardly ever hear conversations about the Trans-Caucasus and Caspian regions, but historically they are important, and they are even more important now as a region of great power competition — for their energy content, and for their location as gateway to Central Asia.”

Remember, our informal class lunch is the second Thursday of each

month, and don't forget to send in your answer to the questions: “What do you wish you had known when you were 18?” and “What advice do you have for the members of the College's next graduating class as they face becoming ‘adults?’”

## 1965

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
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Development Contact  
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**Gene Feldman** sent me a fascinating note triggered by his temporary stay at the King's Crown Hotel. I was one of the “handful of us.” Gene writes, “At the start of our first year, a handful of us were temporarily housed in the King's Crown Hotel on 116th Street due to a snafu in dormitory planning. I became friends with a few men such as **Don Norris** and **Richard Taruskin**. And I tried cheap Chianti for the first and last time. A few weeks later, I relocated to a suite in New Hall, the high-rise dorm awaiting a benefactor to name it.

“I barely recalled the episode until I learned this history. In 1939, Enrico Fermi fled fascist Italy. Professor George B. Pegram of the Columbia physics department wisely recruited him. When Fermi arrived, they put him up at the King's Crown Hotel. Leo Szilard, another refugee nuclear scientist, serendipitously met Fermi in the hotel's lobby. The two geniuses collaborated intensely, despite their oil-and-water temperaments. They soon realized that a nuclear chain reaction was possible.

“Szilard argued that this reaction should be used to build a uranium super bomb to stop Hitler's war machine. Their fortuitous partnership lead Fermi to create the first controlled chain reaction in a secret laboratory on December 2, 1942. The immigrants got the job done. Now an atomic bomb seemed possible. A phone call announced success to President Roosevelt's advisor, cryptically saying, ‘The Italian navi-

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gator has landed in the new world.' Everyone in the lab celebrated with a bottle of good Chianti, and all signed the basket.

"The Los Alamos team then built a few bombs intended for Germany. But after Hitler's defeat, Japan became the target. Fermi still had the President's ear. He and Szilard urged FDR to detonate the bomb in the Pacific, demonstrating its fearsome power to the Japanese while sparing civilians. The politicians and generals had other plans.

"While most physicists had chosen narrow specialties, Fermi mastered all the major areas. He was dubbed 'The last man who knew

mobile methods to screen patients for cardiovascular risks and raise awareness about heart disease.

"In 2011, he received the National College Football Foundation's Distinguished American award. In 2018, he received the John F. Kennedy Award from Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day parade committee."

**Bob Yunich** also gave us an update: "Over the past few years, I've enjoyed a wonderfully unrestrained life. I've become more active in volunteer work; my wife, Joanne, and I have been traveling and taking advantage of our second home in Andes, N.Y.

"For more than five years, I have been a credit crisis counselor/

tion. Every day was a new chance to see Iceland's natural wonders — geysers, geothermal mud pools, waterfalls and volcanic lava fields — and become acquainted with the daily lives of Icelanders. On July 4, our ship, the *National Geographic Explorer*, cruised north to Grímsey Island, crossing the Arctic Circle. Due to the island's geophysical attributes, it produces inexpensive hydroelectricity, which has fueled an immense aluminum smelting industry (aluminum ore is imported, converted to aluminum ingots or rolled stock, which then is exported). This is the story line of the 2018 movie *Woman at War*.

"This summer, we had planned to go on an Abercrombie & Kent safari to Botswana, but had to cancel due to health issues. We are confident Botswana will always be there and that we can go another time. In the meantime, we're planning a trip to London around Christmas and maybe Croatia and Lisbon in the late spring.

"I have scaled back my financial advisory practice with a view toward fully retiring in the next few years. I am looking forward to our reunion next year and hope many, many classmates can participate."

Your correspondent and your classmates would like to hear more from you. As Gene's note suggests, you can even write about a thought triggered by Columbia. Whatever you write, it will be eagerly consumed by your classmates.

## 1966

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

Greetings for fall, Class of 1966!

From **Calvin Johnson**: "I teach tax at the University of Texas School of Law, and jump valiantly into the intellectual fray. My last articles said that Elizabeth Warren's wealth tax was constitutional, because the defining aspect of direct tax was that it had to be reasonably apportionable. Before that I said that under-valuation of property transferred at death means estate tax captures only 25 percent of what the statute says it is supposed to collect. Then I said the Trump deficits needed to be

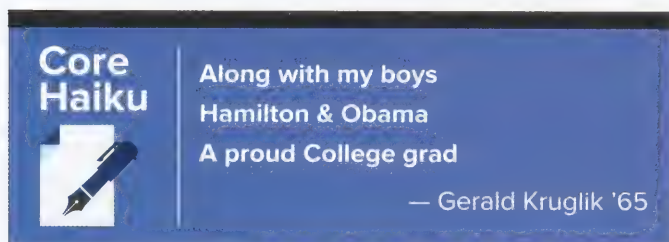
funded by taxes on wealth, because tax deficits funded by harm to lower tiers maximized the damage that tax does to human happiness. Then I said rewrite the 'dividend' rules so that the dysfunctional earnings and profits account doesn't matter, and so that there is not a tax without gain. Then I said taxpayer has no capital gain, unless the taxpayer has basis. Then I took down four Harvard professors, a Stanford Law professor and the president of the American Economic Association. I expect an email telling me 'the veil has fallen from my eyes' any day now. I am writing an autobiography with technical tax talk, which of course my kids won't understand. But I am still having fun."

**Michael Garrett** writes that, within the last year or so, he spent a month in Japan, a month in the Baltic region and a month in Australia/Indonesia/Singapore, and will spend the September in Spain and Portugal, January in the Galapagos and Amazon, May in New Orleans and August in eastern Europe. When you add to that a 50th Law School reunion, a variety of interesting activities and projects at Columbia College, the Business School, the Law School, the Libraries, University Seminars, Colloquia and Alumni Singers; some grandparenting, photography, piano, theatre and classical music; and events at the University Club and the Chautauqua Institution, it all results in a very stimulating and most rewarding retirement that — on the sound theory that this life is not a dress rehearsal — he plans to continue as long as his and his wife's Sandy's health and energy level can support it.

From **Jeff May**: "My wife, Connie, and I moved after 40 years in Cambridge to Tyngsborough, Mass. Our daughter (who went to Smith College) and her husband (who went to UMass) have given us two wonderful grandchildren, Gabriel (3) and Eliza (1). Our son, Ben SEAS'00, works at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center in IT; he and his wife, Ola, run a cat rescue in Washington Heights.

"We recently sent off the second edition of our first book (of four!), *My House is Killing Me! The Home Guide for Families with Allergies and Asthma*, to the press.

"I continue to do indoor air quality investigations with the



everything,' the title of a biography by David N. Schwartz from which I learned some of this story. David is the son of the late Columbia professor Mel Schwartz '53, GSAS'58, who, like Fermi, was a Nobel Laureate. Professor Schwartz inspired my love of physics and my career."

Last October, *The Republican*, a local newspaper for Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley and Granby, Mass., reported that Holyoke H.S.'s first Hall of Fame class was inducted. **Archie Roberts** was one of the inductees. From the article: "The Class of 2018 honorees also include a father-son duo, 20-year football coach Archie Roberts and Archie Jr., who excelled in three sports. In 1959, his father's last season as head coach, Archie Jr. quarterbacked Holyoke to a 9–0 record and its first AA Conference title. He also starred as a basketball point guard and baseball shortstop. At Columbia, he broke 17 passing records and also played basketball and baseball as the university's last three-sport athlete.

"After a brief time in the NFL, he completed studies for a medical degree, and went on to a career as a renowned heart surgeon. After retiring in 1997 as an active surgeon, he founded the Living Heart Foundation, which uses

financial coach with the Community Service Society of New York. I have been helping people in one-on-one meetings deal with problems such as adverse credit reports, stifling credit card debt, default judgments arising from delinquent debt obligations and the quagmire around — and crippling amounts of — outstanding student loans.

"For the past year, I've been working with Trout Unlimited to increase funding for an awesome program, 'Trout in the Classroom.' TIC is a hands-on, STEM-focused, environmental K–12 education program that enables students to raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in an aquarium in their school classroom. Following eight months of care and observation of their trout, students release their fish into streams and participate in a day of outdoor stewardship activities, forest hikes and stream studies. In New York City, many of the students are from inner city schools and wouldn't otherwise be exposed to the environs outside the five boroughs. I would be delighted to hear from classmates who are interested in learning more or supporting TIC.

"In June, 2018, we took the National Geographic/Lindblad 'Circumnavigate Iceland' expedi-



unbelievable assistance of Connie, who quit working at the Cambridge School of Weston (after 30 years of teaching and administration) to help me in the office. We love our new digs but the best part of moving was landing a five-minute drive from Princeton Station, where we try to go rock 'n' roll dancing to live bands every weekend."

From **Barry Nazarian**: "Three out of the four children I raised as a single father have been in California for the last 15 years, so after 66 years of living within 10 miles of Columbia I decided to join my kids and grandkids and moved across the country: I am now completing my ninth year in San Diego.

"I think the move was a good one as it's pretty stimulating to switch cultures after six and a half decades, and change is a good form of mental exercise for those of us now confronting aging.

"I have made a lot of new friends and for a pretty serious bicycle racer, I could not have picked a better place to be living and training.

"Sitting in occasionally with my son's rock band and enjoying the fact that there are several Columbia people around my class who long ago moved to this ideal climate, I am also doing the heap of sitting required to make a house a home with many of my neighbors who share what is labeled an 'active senior community,' which I think is an appropriate description.

"I lost my incredible lifelong friend **Charlie Pitchford**, with whom I roomed all four years at Columbia; I was the best man in his

wedding. Also miss my friend **Rich Forzani**, whom I met during freshman football and who, being a Jersey boy, remained a friend I would see on occasion during the decades following our graduation.

"I am hoping to get a few more novels out, particularly since I am in a situation where I have the time to do just that without being played out from a long day at work.

"My best to my classmates out there with hopes that we will gather again at least once in decent numbers before that final dismissal."

**Mike Gengler** writes, "I have published a book about school desegregation in my home town of Gainesville, Fla.: *We Can Do It: A Community Takes on the Challenge of School Desegregation*. To my knowledge, after extensive research (thank you, **Walter Metzger GSAS'46** and others, and my mentors at *Spectator*), this book is the only one that details adjustments in schools during and after desegregation. Despite Brown, the South continued under lower court rulings to operate its side-by-side separate white and black schools as long as black students could choose to attend the white schools ('freedom of choice'). Not until 1968 and 1969 did the Supreme Court put an end to the South's dual school systems. In Gainesville, two-thirds of African-American students and many teachers chose to remain at Lincoln H.S. Its students struck for 11 days in 1969 to protest its closing. Desegregation was a process, not an outcome. White and black communities had to work together to bring their public-school systems through this crisis. For more information, please see [wecandoitbook.com](http://wecandoitbook.com)."

## 1967

**Albert Zonana**  
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The 1967 version of the lightweight crew had a reunion at the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Sprints on May 19 in Worcester, Mass. In May 1964, the freshman crew culminated its undefeated season at this event. The crew has remained close through the years. **Eric Dannemann** supplied the



The 1967 lightweight crew had a reunion at the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Sprints on May 19 in Worcester, Mass. Left to right: **Jon Jarvik '67**, **Jeff Brensilver '67**, **Bob Malsberger SEAS'67**, **David Blanchard '67**, **Gerry Botha '67**, **Richie Miller '67** and **Eric Dannemann '67**.

nearby photos and a brief update on our classmates.

**Jon Jarvik** is a cellular and molecular biologist at Carnegie Mellon.

**Jeff Brensilver PS'71** has had a long career as an internist/nephrologist/educator/departments chair in teaching hospitals in the New York metropolitan area and still loves his work.

**Bob Malsberger SEAS'67** became a career engineer, starting in aerospace and mutating to biotech. Along the way he somehow managed to be part of an energetic family.

**David Blanchard** grew up in Texas, went to graduate school at Brown and lived in California, Mexico and Vermont for the last 40-plus years, homesteading, potting, parenting, paddling, special educating and soaking up the beauty of the mountains.

**Gerry Botha SEAS'68, SEAS'70** started out with AMF in Connecticut; went to business school in Massachusetts; worked at Ford in Illinois, West Virginia, California and Scotland; was with Ferranti in Scotland, New York and Georgia; was with a consulting group in Atlanta; worked with Ametek in South Carolina and Florida and Nilfisk in Minnesota, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Italy; settled down in Vermont, with consulting, property management, grandchildren and endless to-do lists!

**Richie Miller** retired from a 30-plus-year career with AT&T and the USAFR to become a full-time grandpa.

**Eric Dannemann** was in the Navy, and later went to business school. After various management assignments, he has spent the past 30 years in the art business. Retired in Connecticut with the love of his life and three great kids.

Be well, all of you, and do write ...

## 1968

**Arthur Spector**  
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Miami Beach, FL 33140  
[arthurspector@gmail.com](mailto:arthurspector@gmail.com)

Wishing the members of the Class of 1968 a happy and healthy fall. Please take a moment to share your news or a favorite Columbia College memory with the class by sending an email to [arthurspector@gmail.com](mailto:arthurspector@gmail.com).

## 1969

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**Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel**  
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Our milestone 50th reunion, held May 30-June 1, was by overwhelming consensus a grand success. We had both class-specific events, as well as the events open to all alumni, as described elsewhere. Our goal in planning the reunion was to create ample opportunity for classmates



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Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





to reconnect, and also to provide some content and entertainment. On Thursday night, we had a reception at the Columbia Alumni Center, which — despite heavy rain — still generated a crowd that filled the room. On Friday night, we had a capacity-crowd reception in the C.V. Starr East Asian Library in Kent Hall. These opening events allowed classmates to spend extensive time together, sometimes with no contact in many a year, and even to meet classmates previously unknown to them.

Initially, we had no class-specific daytime activities scheduled for Friday. However, responding to requests from classmates, **Dick Menaker** organized a tour of the Manhattanville campus, including a brief look at the interior of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center and a visit to the other two completed buildings. Dick led a hike back to campus along the Hudson River Greenway for those wishing to hike.

On Saturday, we were joined for our lunch and dinner programs by Columbia Engineering alumni. The lunch programs were held at Faculty House. Following a brief reception and time for lunch, Dean James J. Valentini welcomed the class back to the campus. **Rich Wyatt** then moderated a lively open mic session, where memories were shared (many arising from the blackout). A common refrain was the benefit of learning from classmates having a different background. We paused to recall those of our classmates (sadly, now more than 80) who have passed away.

**Bill Bonvillian**, who teaches at MIT, led a panel on climate change, joined by Sir Alex Halliday, director of Columbia's Earth Institute; **Scott Anderson**, former curator at the Museum of the Amazon (Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi) in Belém, Brazil; and **Marc Rauch**, now with the Environmental Defense Fund. As **Dick Menaker** aptly put it, "I have rarely seen so many key issues handled so swiftly in so little time."

**Mike Rosenblatt** then anchored a panel of doctors, which he had put together, focused on the need for innovation in improving health care. Mike focused on the topic "Where will new medicines come from?"; **Gary Rosenberg** addressed "Can we optimize treatment for both the individual and the population, and can we afford it?"; **Jerry Avorn's** topic was "How my years at

Columbia shaped my deviant career in medicine and what we need now to fix health care" (for many years, Jerry has focused on the economics of pharmaceuticals); and **James Coromilas SEAS'69** talked about "Heart disease — will we tame it?" Then **Steve Valenstein** gave us "Insights from analysis of health policies," and finally, **David Sokal** addressed "Male contraception: challenges and impact." Here, too, there was much substance of interest and importance from a policy and personal perspective.

The weekend culminated with a reception and dinner in Low Library for both the College and Engineering 50th reunion classes; with guests and spouses, we had more than 150 for the dinner. Ahead of dinner, the official class photo was taken on the Low Steps. The Alumni Office has posted Reunion Weekend photos on its Facebook page ([facebook.com/alumnicc/photos](https://facebook.com/alumnicc/photos)). During dinner, **Dick Menaker** gave welcoming remarks, then turned the microphone over to **George Baker**, who portrays John Adams in a variety of venues, as he did for us. (Staying in costume, he really stands out in the class photo.)

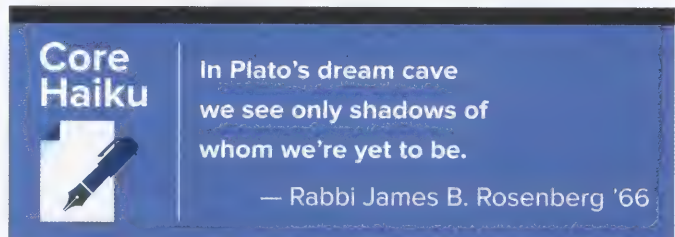
Our main speaker was Professor Ken Jackson, the authority on the history of New York City; he gave lively and informative comments on the city at the time of our births, during our College years and now. And there have been many changes. To close out the evening, the Alumni Singers performed *Roar*, *Lion*, *Roar* and *Alma Mater*, with extensive selections from Gilbert and Sullivan before that.

Who attended? This list of classmates was compiled based on those who registered and/or checked in at a class specific-event; if you've been left off the list or included by error and you'd like a correction, please let me know: **Lawrence Aaron, Michael Agelasto, Dominick Agostin, Ron Alexander, Jim Alloy, Scott Anderson, Bob Appel, Jerry Avorn, George Baker, Larry Berger, Richard Berger, John Bernson, Chuck Bethill, Bill Bonvillian, David Borenstein, James Boyce, Eric Branfman, Michael Braudy, Andy Bronin, Michael Jacoby Brown, Peter Buscemi, Ira Cohen, Steve Ditlea, John Erickson, John Fogarty, Miles Freedman, Robert Friedman, Robert**

**Gabel, Bill Giusti, Jerry Gliklich, Sam Goldman, Jesse Goldner, Neal Handel, Fred Harbus, Edwin Harnden, John Herbert, Michael Ingrisani, Bill Kelly, Marty Konikoff, Joseph Kushick, Dwight Lee, Mark Leeds, Hal Lemberg, Hal Lewis, John Van Dusen Lewis, Woody Lewis, George Lindsay, Jim Lo Dolce, John Lombardo, Andy Markovits, Joe Materna, Dick Menaker, Jerry Nadler, Jerry Nagler, Fred Neufeld, Michael Oberman, Michael O'Connor, Peter O'Hare, Manny Organek, Gary Otsuji, Fred Pack, Bob Papper, Harold Parker, Hart Perry, Richard Prouser, Norbert Rainford, Richard Rapaport, Marc Rauch, Alan Romanczuk, Oren Root, Dave Rosedahl, Gary Rosenberg, Mike Rosenblatt, Irv Ruderman, Eric Saltzman, Jack Schachner, Joel Scharfstein, Don Schenk, Mike Schnipper, Jeff Schwartz, David Silverstone, Bill Sleeper, Dave**

college, and wish I had known them sooner. The Reunion Committee did an excellent job of combining time to socialize and time for lectures."

From **Larry Berger**: "The reunion surpassed my expectations. More classmates turned out than I had expected, and I was able to spend considerable time with some. Sadly, 10 percent of our class are no longer with us, clearly indicating we should make a constant effort to take advantage of these reunions. There were two events that I particularly enjoyed. The Art Humanities course was skillfully managed by our professor, who, using the Socratic method, immediately engaged us in lively discussion and highlighted points made by the participants who were plentiful. Also the Reunion Keynote [featuring actor Maggie Gyllenhaal '99 and screenwriter Beau Willimon '99, SOA'03], from both big and small screen, and their perspectives as actors and directors, as well as their Columbia experiences and relevance to their



**Sokal, Alan Sparer, Alan Sullivan, Mike Teitel, Dave Turner, Steve Valenstein, Mark Webber, Jeff Weintraub, Julian Wheatley, Eric Witkin, Rich Wyatt and Joel Ziff.**

I invited those who attended to help frame a sense of the event. From **John Bernson**: "The reunion was totally swell. The class-specific events were congenial — I ran into some long-lost classmates and old friends. The intellectual content was excellent. A high point for me was the tour of The Met Cloisters, which was led by a brilliant professor who is writing a book about Genghis Kahn. Finally, the campus looked beautiful — a vast improvement, and also a great time of year to see it."

From **Don Schenk**: "The reunion was a great success. I reconnected with so many great friends and wish so many more of my crew and swimming team [friends] had come. I also had the pleasure of meeting several classmates whom I had not known in

profession. Panels in which classmates participated on climate change and health care were enlightening both for content as well as appreciation of the expertise and knowledge offered in these areas by classmates!"

From **Michael Jacoby Brown**: "It was good to reconnect with some people I knew and have not been in touch with for 50 years. I saw some people I knew slightly and had some good conversations. I assume different people want different experiences from a reunion. I was looking forward to hearing what classmates had learned over 50 years. ... I think the open mic session lacked the kind of serious reflection I was looking for, although I assume others wanted just to have fun. Like **Jerry Avorn**, I was surprised that there was no mention of the events of Spring 1968, and as Jerry said, there seemed to be a 'blackout' of this time, although there were lots of memories spoken about the electricity blackout."



From **Jim Lo Dolce**: "I very much enjoyed seeing some old acquaintances, as well as talking to classmates whom I did not recall knowing. I was energized to hear about all the interesting lives and adventures our classmates have had. I was impressed that a lot of us are still working and contributing to society. I think our class as a whole has had a big impact on the world."

From **Hal Lewis**: "Thoughtfully arranged and well-timed events were a good backdrop for learning more about classmates who were casual acquaintances and reengaging with longtime friends. Greatly enjoyed extended time with former roomies **Michael Agelasto** and **Richard Rapaport** and reencountering other Lewises, **John Lewis** and **Woody Lewis**. Pleased our class seemed more focused on the value of our undergrad experience in navigating a seismically changed world than on the minutiae of our years here. Maybe a sign of our collective general health and well-being despite early senescence?"

From **John Lombardo**: "In my view, the reunion was a complete success. One could feel the wonderful spirit of community at all of the events. It was remarkably free of all the negatives that others describe with respect to their school reunions. What stands out? First, the self-critical humor of the beloved Woj, and the great spirit of togetherness. I think I was correct in insisting that the event remain apolitical. For me, the reunion has also generated an invitation to a 50th anniversary wedding party of a classmate, who got married in our chapel. It was a wedding I was privileged to attend."

From **David Turner**: "So great to see you and our classmates at the great and grand reunion. The feeling of connection and recollection remains strong. Among so many wonderful and meaningful conversations, the moment I cherish and will long celebrate was at the banquet, at the end of Professor [Ken] Jackson's speech on the living history of New York City, when he asked for questions. He called on Rep. **Jerry Nadler**, and we had the opportunity to stand and applaud one of our own, a man at the very point of our nation's discourse and labors. Columbia College and we of the Class of '69 can take pride in what we learned and shared, and aim to do as well when we are called upon."

One further benefit of reunion planning that some classmates noted: Even among those classmates who could not attend, many of us got to visit with them by phone or email as we tried to see if they could come — and to catch up in the process.

Lastly, there is one important item to report: the success of our Class Gift. In total, we had 157 donors, 32 at the John Jay Associates level, with direct contributions to the Columbia College Fund of more than \$293,000, and total donations of more \$1.38 million. A great way to cap Reunion Weekend.

## 1970

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

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Your class correspondent was absolutely overwhelmed by the Class of 1970's response to my solicitation of news! In fact, I received so many notes that they can't all fit in the print magazine! Go online to college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes and type "1970" in the search bar to read news from **Michael Aeschliman**, **David Lehman** and first-time contributor **Bill Moore**.

I start with **Vladimir Danylovich**, with whom I was friends throughout my undergraduate years. Vladimir is a computer project manager and systems integrator. He is also an ordained Eastern Orthodox priest who baptized my youngest daughter, Shirley, 30 years ago. Vladimir reports: "Son Andre lives in Los Angeles and is a post-production manager for the Fox sci-fi series *The Orville*. Daughter Theodora '03 has finished a Ph.D. in English, is married and teaches at Georgetown. Daughter Ksenia is married and teaches at the Bethesda Waldorf School. Daughter Elizabeth has been tonsured a nun in Greece and is now Sister Ionia. Finally, youngest daughter, Anna, is painting icons."

**Martin Newhouse**: "I am soldiering on as president of the New England Legal Foundation in Boston (NELF; nelfonline.org). My big news is the arrival of a grandson, Herman Katz Newhouse, last October. He is the son of our son Sam Newhouse and his wife, our daughter-in-law, Samantha Mitchell. That happy couple, and little Herman, live in Philadelphia.

"In January I completed a five-year term on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Clients' Security Board (the body that recompenses clients who have had their money stolen by their lawyers; Massachusetts is unique I believe in having no cap on the amount that we pay back to the defrauded clients). Having completed that duty, I was appointed to and am serving on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct. Finally, in addition to my duties at NELF I teach professional responsibility and transactional skills at Suffolk University Law School."

**Joseph Spivack**: "Enjoying my third year of retirement! Busy as an angel investor in New Jersey and elsewhere. Traveling a good bit. Hiked in Scotland and Patagonia this year. Volunteering as a trail builder on the Appalachian Trail in Harriman State Park and elsewhere. Helped celebrate **Richard Polton**'s 70th birthday in Montclair. Renovating a studio apartment in Manhattan. Busier than ever!"

First-time contributor and nature enthusiast **Tom Barrett** writes: "I'm getting a jump on 50th anniversaries later this summer by heading to Yosemite National Park, where I first worked as a seasonal ranger at Tioga Pass in 1969. (In later years, with some interruptions, I worked my way up to garbageman, sanitation worker, gas station attendant, trail-crew laborer, trail-crew cook and surveyor's helper.) The park, and in particular its wilderness high country, to which I've returned again and again for long, often solo, for backpacking trips, has formed the bedrock of my mental landscape ever since. We're planning a 50-miler this year — me and one of the many lifetime friends I made 50 years ago — into the north end of the park, which encompasses one of the largest roadless areas in the lower-48. It's been some years since I've been that way. Fortunately

for me, my fellow traveler is a world-class mountaineer. Best wishes to you and the Class of '70."

**Philip Roath** notes: "My wife, Kathy, and I both recently retired and moved to Pearland, Texas (south of Houston), from North Dallas. We are closer to our grandchildren (2 and 4), our two daughters and son-in-law. We live in an active 55-plus community on a golf course. Life is good."

**Arthur "Wickes" Rossiter** writes: "I believe this is my first correspondence with the Class of '70 and, amazingly, a lifetime has passed by since we graduated. I practiced as a C.P.A. for many years (Arthur Young & Co., now Ernst & Young, among others) then moved to an industrial equipment and supply company in Needham, Mass., as treasurer and general manager. I retired in June 2018 to Scarborough, Maine. I was sorry to read in the past year of the deaths of George Stade GSAS'65 and Wallace Broecker '53, GSAS'58, two particularly memorable teachers. I visited Columbia for the first time in many years in May year to attend our daughter's graduation from Teachers College and was reminded how much I regret the chaos that prevailed on campus during our four years there. I wish I could start again as a freshman (probably minus the blue beanie!)."

Professor **Sam Estreicher** says that in January he received the Brooklyn Technical H.S. Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Alumnus. The association plans to dedicate the school's moot courtroom in his honor.

**Dan Feldman** sent a happy note: "I had a wonderful sabbatical year in 2018, in which I spent the spring semester as a full-time graduate student in philosophy at the CUNY Graduate Center and the fall semester in Rome as an associate at the Institute for Regionalism, Federalism, and Self-Government of Italy's National Research Council, studying the efficacy of Italian anti-corruption institutions (results to be published shortly as a chapter in a book). Shortly after returning to my teaching responsibilities at John Jay College in 2019, however, I was guilt-tripped into accepting the directorship of our MPA-Inspection and Oversight Program, which makes up about 40 percent of our 800-student overall MPA program. When I left full-time government work in 2010, I had hoped not to





have to run anything anymore. No such luck. However, I have made it clear that when my term expires after another two years, I will not accept reelection and will return to teaching and writing.

"Better news: our son got an M.P.A. from NYU in May and is a senior manager for data analytics and strategy (or something like that) at NBC News. Our daughter got her master's of marine affairs degree from the University of Rhode Island, also in May, and started a two-year stint in the coastal management section of the New York State Department of State as a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration fellow."

Joel Mintz reports: "In June, David Sokolow, Ted Wirecki and I got together for another of our annual guys' getaway weekends. This time we spent three relaxing and enjoyable days in the Rockies near Vale, Colo. A great time was had by all! I recently semi-retired from my job as a full-time professor of law at Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, where I had taught environmental law and related courses since fall 1982. My employer was kind enough to appoint me as the C. William Trout Senior Fellow in Public Interest Law. This fellowship allows me continued use of my office, student research assistance and an annual stipend to cover my expenses in participating in professional conferences. I have also continued working on some writing projects and serving on the boards of two environmental NGOs. None-

theless, I now have lots more time to travel with my wife, Meri-Jane Rochelson BC'71, and to work on some visual arts projects, swim, visit my kids and grandkids, and read for pleasure. No complaints here!"

Dov Zakheim reports: "Recently returned from Mexico City, where my grandson Max and his basketball team won the gold medal in the Pan American Maccabi Games. I work 'half-time' — 40 hours a week. In the last few months I have been to London (twice), Paris, Rabat and, of course, Mexico City. Still racking up those miles."

Good news from Leonard Levine: "I had successful colon cancer surgery in August 2018, followed by chemotherapy."

Another first-time contributor, Professor Michael P. Link, says: "I am a pediatric hematologist/oncologist, and have been a faculty member at Stanford for 40 years. I've had a pretty good professional run. Happily married with two girls, and we enjoy living in the San Francisco Bay area. We are avid skiers, and we love the beauty and opportunities (mountains, wine country, Pacific Coast and great weather) that California offers. Contemplating retirement, but I still have a few irons in the fire. New York is a wonderful place to visit to catch up on opera and so on, so I am grateful for my Columbia years that allowed me to feel at home in the Big Apple. But we are stuck on the West."

Steve Boatti and his wife, Linda, are happily retired and the proud grandparents of two grandchildren. They live in Riverdale, the Bronx, and spend time traveling

and visiting their country house in Connecticut. Steve was a corporate lawyer and Linda was a private school teacher.

Robert A. Leonard GSAS'82 reports: "As the 50th anniversary of Woodstock approached, our creator, my brother George Leonard '67, and the 11 surviving members of the original Sha Na Na, 10 of whom are CC grads, had been asked for a lot of interviews. For example, 'How did a group of Columbia undergrads go from campus performances straight to one of Andy Warhol's nightclubs, where we were discovered by Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, and wind up, only a few months after George gold-lamé'd and choreographed us, opening for Jimi at Woodstock?'

"Our hit TV show, Jocko Marcelino '72 tells me, was syndicated in 33 countries. Three of us still tour more than 30 gigs a year. Elliot Cahn became Green Day's formative manager, and Ed Goodgold '65 did the same for Phil Collins and Genesis.

"The press also likes to write about how many of us went on to unusual careers outside of rock. Just to mention two, Alan Cooper '71 and I were the original basses in Sha Na Na (né the Columbia Kingsmen). Alan sang lead in the one song we got in the original Woodstock movie ('My Teen Angel' was added in the later director's cut). Alan got a Ph.D. at Yale and became the provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary. I got my Ph.D. at dear old Columbia and became a forensic linguist, teaching at Hofstra and working with the FBI, British intelligence, Joint Terrorism Task Force and counter-terrorism units worldwide — especially the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit-1 (counterterrorism and threat assessment). My civil suit clients include Apple, Facebook and the Prime Minister of Canada. Very dear to my heart is the Forensic Linguistics Capital Case Innocence Project I started, where my grad students and I reanalyze language evidence that has put people on death row for murder. In 2012 *TIME* magazine deemed me the second smartest rock star in history, behind Brian May of Queen, who is an astrophysicist; I think I shall sue. Know any good lawyers?"

Don't forget to go to college. [columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes](http://columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes) to read updates from Michael Aeschliman, David Lehman and Bill Moore!

## 1971

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Hello, Class of '71. This is my first column, so please, bear with me as I work out the kinks.

I remember our class's orientation and our first days on campus in fall 1967. Even though I had been on College Walk many times before with my family, at that moment, I stood on those red bricks feeling isolated even while surrounded by a crowd of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds. The familiar atmosphere, changed forever at that moment: I was a Columbian and Columbia was family. Very few of us knew any of the others, and yet, more than 50 years later, we have bonded through common experiences. We arrived from Kansas, or California, or Massachusetts, or wherever we had lived before, but this was no longer Kansas, Toto — this was college and we were on our own. We were adults. I'm getting flashbacks of that experience as I write our class's column for the first time. It makes me a little nervous and a lot excited. Please send me information about your lives so we can share it between us: [l.a.preschel@gmail.com](mailto:l.a.preschel@gmail.com).

Robert Mayer reports on a continuing tradition that started in summer 1980. Anticipating Billy Crystal's *City Slickers*, Robert struck on the idea of New Yorkers going off the grid in the great outdoors for relaxation. He and his brother Alan Mayer '72 backpacked the Wind River Range in Wyoming that summer. They enjoyed it so much, it became a tradition. This summer was the 40th annual hike/trip. The group includes Dr. Larry "Spider" Masket and Elliot Cahn '70, who sang with Sha Na Na (photo at [college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes)). Robert also gives a shout out to Lloyd Emanuel, Phil Nord, John Jaeger and Terry Kogan. He is glad to have the friends he made at Columbia.

Arthur Engoron is an elected New York State Supreme Court justice, sitting in Manhattan. He commutes to Centre Street from

## Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!  
What's a fun way to note it?  
Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku**. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu), and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.



Great Neck, N.Y. He is married with four children, one of whom became a lawyer. The others are 13, 11 and 10, so their occupations are pending, as are their tuitions. Arthur formed and runs the Wheatley School Alumni Association for his high school.

**Lambert Chee** is practicing cardiology in Walnut City, Calif.

**Ray Stricker** PS'78 practices medicine in San Francisco, specializing in tickborne diseases, which are a worldwide epidemic. He recently spoke at a large medical conference in Sonora, Mexico, about these diseases. When his work allows, Ray and his wife, Gina, travel. His daughter is traveling in Asia while authoring the next Great American Novel. His son works for a drug design company.

Ray poses the question that has puzzled Columbians since Jack Rohan '53, TC'57's team won the Ivy League Basketball Championship: "Why did the Princeton team line up at midcourt and stare at our players during warm ups, before the championship playoff game in 1968?"

Ray, if Princetonians are so intelligent, they would have used the time to warm up, too. They needed to locate the basket. We beat them and made the NCAA tournament. The final answer to the question is: Coach Rohan prepared his team for everything. Any stare generated by a Princeton player could not come close to "the ghost" Jack gave to our guys when they did something foolish on the court. He gave it to them in practice and during many games, so they were ready. Go, Lions.

As reported in *The New York Times* on June 6, **Rocco Commisso SEAS'71**, BUS'75 purchased the Serie A soccer club ACF Fiorentina. Rocco has always given to the sport he loves, and as his teammate on the undefeated Columbia freshman soccer team of 1967, I know firsthand his determination to win and be the best. Rocco has received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, is the chairman of cable provider Mediacom and was the chairman of the New York Cosmos soccer team. He is quoted in the article, "... given the fact I was born in Italy, my love for Italian soccer and what soccer has done for me, I wanted to eventually buy a quality team here in Italy, and I'm very proud, happy and honored to buy Fiorentina, a club that's got great traditions."

Now our class has to watch Serie A football on cable. We have a rooting interest.

**Juris Kaža** lives and works in Riga, Latvia, although he is technically retired and collecting unspectacular pensions from Sweden, the United States, Latvia and Germany. From 2006 to 2013 Juris worked for the Latvian news agency LETA. Subsequently, he became a stringer for *The Wall Street Journal* in Riga. With the economy of Europe as it was, he was kept busy. During this time, he also became a stringer for the Spanish news agency EFE.

Juris's youngest son, Matiss, graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts last spring. He spent a semester at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles, but suspended his studies to make a film. He received funding from the Latvian National Film Centre to do a feature-length fiction film, a Western set in Czarist time with gunfights, an anarchist and the Czar's armed forces. Matiss also produced the documentary *One Ticket Please*. It was entered in several festivals and won some prizes. He is completing his second documentary, which is set in multiple locations around the world.

Juris's oldest son, Davis, is married and the editor of a Swedish newspaper in Umeå. Number 2 son, Nils, has provided two grandsons: Dante (4) and Elliot (10). They live in Stockholm.

Juris's wife, Una, works for a call center in Riga. She is also a filmmaker, having trained at the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography in Moscow.

Last year, **Louis Rossetto** visited Juris in Riga, and they spent several days catching up while they toured the shady bars in town.

As a group, we were selected in spring 1967 and thrown together on 116th Street in the fall. For years we walked by each other on campus; some of us stopped and talked, others continued on to study at Butler Library or play pool in Ferris Booth. We drank with each other in The West End or elsewhere. We watched Sha Na Na under the stars in front of Low Library. We went to mixers (remember when they had mixers or socials and people did not find a date online?), dated Barnard women, saw Broadway plays and watched our football team lose so often, it eventually set a national record. These are

common experiences. Tell me about yours. I cannot write this column without your information. Please help me: l.a.preschel@gmail.com.

## 1972

**Paul S. Appelbaum**  
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No reason why you should know this, but the high school that sent the largest number of students to our class at Columbia was my alma mater, Stuyvesant H.S. in New York. Hence, one of the reasons I was so looking forward to my Stuyvesant class's 50th reunion (only a year late) was having a chance to catch up with many of our Columbia classmates. So one evening this past June at the Princeton Club (sorry about that), my wife and I sat down for dinner at a table that included three other members of the Class of '72.

Next to me sat **Doug Weiner** GSAS'84, who summarized life since graduation this way: "Before resuming doctoral studies in Russian history (Columbia), I took three years off, driving a taxi (night shift) and working in the Post Office. After a postdoc at Harvard, I taught at Indiana and Tufts before assuming my current position at the University of Arizona. An extreme nationalist Russian daily, *Zavtra*, credited me with bringing down the USSR, but this is surely an exaggeration. A pioneer in researching Russian environmental history (my first two books), I was president of the American Society for Environmental History."

Doug has lots of interests, including the piano and birding — I saw some great photos on his phone — and he's a devotee of the excellent Arizona Theater Company in Tucson.

**Steve Bellovin**, who sat next to Doug, is the Percy K. and Vida L.W. Hudson Professor of Computer Science at Columbia, and an adjunct faculty member at the Law School, where he teaches a seminar, "Cybersecurity: Policy, Legal and Technical Aspects." Steve, who earned a Ph.D. from UNC Chapel Hill and has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering, lives on Morningside Heights.

What was particularly nice about the mini-reunion is that

Doug, Steve and I all grew up in Canarsie and spent 10 years in school together, from seventh grade through graduation at Columbia, but we hadn't all been together since our Columbia days.

Across the table from us, with his wife, Susana, was **Ron Weigel**. After getting a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Illinois, and doing a post-doc at UCLA, Ron spent 28 years at Illinois as professor of epidemiology and biostatistics in the College of Veterinary Medicine. After retiring in 2015, he and Susana — who met while ballroom dancing and are Argentine tango enthusiasts — retired to Athens, Ga., where Ron had done some research early in his career.

At other points during the evening, I had the pleasure of speaking with a couple of other classmates, including **Sherwin Borsuk**, who entered with us but, with the magic of advanced placement courses, graduated two years early. Sherwin lives in Meriden, Conn., with his wife of 46 years, Ruth, and is now retired from the practice of radiology, having led a 10-person radiology group. Their children, Ethan and Amaranth, are a cameraman and college professor, respectively. Interesting tidbit: Sherwin holds two patents/trademarks for a digital book.

**Walter Zaryckyj** GSAS'78, who stayed at Columbia to get a Ph.D., is executive director of the Center for US Ukrainian Relations, "an informational and cultural platform for representatives of the political, economic and cultural establishments of the U.S. and Ukraine to exchange views on issues of mutual interest." Walter taught for 30 years at NYU and says he "was married to the most marvelous angel in the world (I might be biased) who wandered the planet with me," his wife, Marta, who died in 2010. As for the next generation, "I have a terrific youngster pursuing a master's in gastronomy in Italy."

One of the reunion's organizers was **Al Sheiner**, who greeted me at the registration desk. Al practices prosthodontics on Manhattan's Upper East Side, although he lives in New Canaan, Conn. At Columbia, Al played freshman football and lettered in heavyweight crew; he's still an active guy, now the rides director of the Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club. He's also a member of the executive





committee of the Columbia Alumni Association of Fairfield County. Al and his wife, Shean-Mei Sheu, "live with an Italian poodle named Etro, who also functions as a therapy dog for my patients."

During the reception, Al said to me, "You've got to include all the Columbia people here in the next Class Notes." So I did.

## 1973

**Barry Etra**  
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*"Time it was, And what a time it was. It was ... a time of innocence. A time of confidences. Long ago ... it must be ... I have a photograph. Preserve your memories. They're all that's left you."*

So wrote Paul Simon 50 years ago this year, as we were preparing to enter the College; how did he know?

**Stew Sterk** has reached the 40-year milestone as a professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and "continues to enjoy all aspects of the job." He was honored at William and Mary last year for property law scholarship, and has been named a "Best Professor" at Cardozo 15 times. He and his wife, Carol, enjoy kayaking in Mamaroneck, N.Y., and skiing in Vermont with their two daughters.

**Bill Miller** sent a pic (that we could not include here) of the summer 1969 WKCR-FM Program Guide, on which he was featured. He also muses, "It does not seem possible that it was 50 years ago." This was the start of his career in broadcasting and media, which continues today.

**Barry Kelner** sent greetings from sunny Minnesota, where he's spent his career in financial services; he's now at U.S. Bank in Minneapolis. He is hoping for a repeat this year of the Twins' 1991 World Series win! His son Malcolm is an actor and writer in Los Angeles, son Jackson is an i-banker in NYC and daughter Sage is at Penn Dental (their first "Penn-tist," he quips). Barry's wife, Nancy, is an estate-planning attorney in suburban Minnetonka.

**Mike Jellinek** left his last job running community hospitals and services after a merger and started a CEO/senior management consulting

firm. He is still seeing patients as a general and child psychiatrist. He's happiest about his three adult children, who all live near him and his wife, Barbara, in Newton, Mass.; they have four grandchildren, ages 6–12. Mike and Barbara are both 70 (!), and have been married 49 years. Now *that* is something to shoot for!

From **Jose Sanchez**: "My colleagues and I were able to get a street named for **Angelo Falcon** in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, at the intersection of Havemeyer Street and 1st Street. This is the neighborhood where Angelo spent most of his youth and the last 15 years. This is the same street where his father owned a bodega and his uncle owned a barber shop. This was an acknowledgement by the city that Angelo was a great contributor to city and national politics. This honor was bestowed on June 18. The skies were threatening rain all morning. A downpour came at the end of the ceremony, as we removed the cover over the street sign. It was almost as if Angelo had influenced the clouds to delay until we finished."

Hasta, all.

## 1974

**Fred Bremer**  
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"Columbia knows how to do it right! A wonderful reunion with old friends," started the email from **Roger Kahn** (managing director at Capstone Headwaters in NYC).

"This is the best reunion we've had — so far!" said **Dewey Cole** (lawyer, librarian, professor — depending on the day).

These are typical of the reviews from most classmates who attended our 45th reunion, May 30–June 1. They told how they enjoyed the challenging Mini-Core Classes and panel discussions on current topics. They enjoyed the Broadway shows, ballet at Lincoln Center and tours of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, the Hamilton Grange National Memorial (Alexander Hamilton CC 1778's homestead) and a guided tour of the Whitney Biennial 2019. I especially liked seeing the "Core Curriculum Treasures" in Butler Library's Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

The greatest excitement came from the gatherings of classmates at beautiful venues around campus: The Friday night cocktail party on the top floor of Faculty House; the Saturday luncheon on a beautifully manicured South Field; the reception and dinner in the World Room in Pulitzer Hall (it was called Journalism in our day). One classmate commented on how little of the interactions were about careers. Instead it was much more of personal questions — how the kids are doing, health challenges and plans to retire. Few in the class seem to have already retired, but at my table at the Saturday luncheon I heard Dr. **Steve Schonfeld** (a neuroradiologist at University Radiology in East Brunswick, N.J.) say he was gradually cutting back under a department program that he had designed. Dr. **Larry Stam** (a nephrologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital) was also reducing his hours in a more freeform way. By the time we gather for our 50th reunion, I bet we will hear of a lot more who have fully retired.

On the wall at both the Friday and Saturday events was the somber "memorial board," which listed our classmates who have passed away. Around four dozen names were listed — about 10 percent of our graduating class. While this first seemed shocking, it is probably typical for a group now in its mid-to-late 60s, but it still was disturbing. Reading through the names brought back memories of classmates who were not with us.

Two classmates who did not know they are neighbors in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., met at the Saturday night reception. **Jean-Pierre "J.P." Van Lent** (an attorney with the law firm Cullen and Dykman in Manhattan) got together with Dr. **Peter Zegarelli** (a dentist in Tarrytown, N.Y.). We learned that Jean-Pierre has the unique achievement of being the father of twin 7-year-olds. Peter said he is planning to retire later this year and looks forward to having more time to tend to his bees and his gardens — and to dote on his one grandson. He will also be kept busy with his new company (Emanate Biomedical), which is manufacturing a drug delivery device.

With reunions only happening every five years, sometimes we gather "news" that isn't so new. For instance, we learned that **Richard Briffault**

(professor at the Law School) is chair of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, which enforces rules on NYC government officials and employees. Nearing the end of his five-year term, Richard will soon step down. Richard's wife, Sherry Glied, became the dean of the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU two years ago. We also had a chance to meet up with **Joel Almquist** (an attorney with the Kirkpatrick & Lockhart law firm in Boston) and his wife of two years, Tanya Chermak. Tanya does leadership training for physician groups. Those of you who missed the Saturday dinner missed Joel's rendition of one of the bawdy limericks from his days with the Marching Band. He also told us he now has three grandsons: newborn Edmond joins Henry (3) and Charlie (5), all children of Joel's son, David.

Dr. **Alan Rosenberg** (a VP at WellPoint) made it to reunion from the Chicago area. At the Saturday dinner, he told us how busy he and his wife, Debra, have been: going to art galleries, plays and the Whitney tour, as well as the class events. He also passed on that Debra has been taking classes at Chicago Dramatists for the past few years. Her latest play is expected out this fall.

There you have it. A few of the tales of a great reunion of guys who met in September 1970 — nearly a half century ago! More to follow in future columns.

## 1975

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
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Development Contact  
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**Fernando Castro** and Ta'Yer Productions presented his version of *Eva Peron* at the Hudson Guild Theatre in Hollywood in July. From the ad for the show, I don't think it was the standard production!

Posting on Facebook, **Dan Deneen** wrote, "Yes, I know it's kind of pathetic to leave Vermont



for NYC and head straight to the Ramble. But great news — there are hermit thrush in Central Park.”

I had to remind Dan to beware of other “wildlife” in the Ramble, with emphasis on the “wild.” He replied to me, “Careful; you’re dating yourself!” LOL!

In a later post, Dan bemoaned the passing of *Mad* magazine. Dan has such a way with words, and his words in this case probably apply to many of us — it is just too good not to share in full. He posted: “So, there’s been all this coverage of *Mad* magazine shutting down. I didn’t even know it still existed. In the 1970s, I didn’t know it still existed.

of what commas were for, then the meaning of ‘What, me worry?’ would have been seen as the anodyne shrug it really is.) (And, of course, I’d have been robbed of one of my childhood’s primal mysteries ....)

“So, I’ve been reading the various obits this week, grudgingly agreeing with pronouncements of *Mad*’s claim to cultural significance over the decades ... also, lots of thinking, ‘Wait a minute. If *Mad* was a war, then I’m a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. I was there! They’re talking about me and my idiot friends! But it was just *Mad* magazine. That’s all. And Alfred was just a geeky loser with a runny nose who picked

real and personal property financing. Shortly after, Bob and his wife, Regina Mullahy BC’75, came to Baltimore for a visit. We toured the American Visionary Art Museum and the National Aquarium in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

Do you want a Bobfather ESB? If so, head to Wynkoop Brewing Co. in Denver. The ale is brewed with the oldest beer yeast strain in North America, isolated by **Bob Sclafani**.

*Siege: Trump Under Fire* is **Michael Wolff**’s account of the second year of the Trump administration. Published in June, it is a sequel to *Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House*, which was a bestseller in 2018. Michael claims that Steve Bannon described the Trump organization as a criminal entity and predicted that investigations into the President’s finances will lead to his political downfall, when he is revealed to be “not the billionaire he said he was; just another scumbag.”

Recent reporting by *The New York Times* and other sources seem to support Bannon’s claim and Wolff’s reporting of it. Will we have another Wolff account of the third year of the Trump presidency?

In closing, do you believe it is almost that time again? Our 45th reunion is next year. A small Reunion Committee, including **Jim Dolan**, **Steve Jacobs**, **David Stein** and yours truly, **Randy Nichols**, and led by **Ira Malin**, has begun preliminary planning. Stay tuned for details. We hope to see lots of classmates on campus next spring!

## 1976

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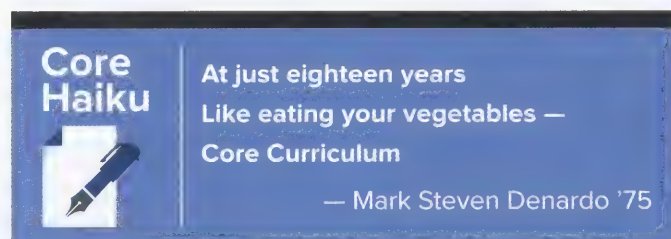
No music this time. Not in the mood. **Terry Corrigan** reached out just after the last issue closed with the news that **Pedro Mencia** passed away in April 2019 of esophageal cancer. Pedro was an ob/gyn for 39 years and practiced in Pennsylvania and New York. Terry’s email brought back great memories of our junior and senior years, when the south balcony of 2 Hartley was the location of Terry and Pedro’s great three-room suite, where there were many parties and long nights of Hearts and/or

Risk with a group of dedicated ’76ers. Most of all, I remember Pedro’s outrage when anyone else would dare to build their Risk Army on the continent of Australia. Pedro’s lasting legacy, to me, is certainly bringing many newborns into this world that he long ago conquered by starting his journey from the continent of Australia on 2 Hartley. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, three sons and many grieving friends.

In more joyful news from summer 2019, I had a great trip to Cooperstown, N.Y., where I went to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Fenimore Art Museum and the GlimmerGlass Opera performance of *Show Boat*. The trip ended up with a stop in Syracuse to see Mika the dog and the couple (Linda and **Dennis Goodrich**) whom Mika allows to live in her house. Also, Mika is barking a lot about Washington, D.C.

Also heard from **Rich Rohr** about what used to be called Dean’s Day, then was briefly called All-Class Reunion and now is simply part of Reunion Weekend, with no special name: “Reunion Weekend featured two days of events open to all classes, including ours. ‘Dean-tini’ [Dean James J. Valentini] was pleased to note that no one bribed their way into the Class of 2023. More seriously, he described a new initiative, *My Columbia Journey*, with 13 specific competencies that students should seek to develop over four years. These are not degree requirements but are intended to help students plan their studies.

“Contemporary Civilization turns 100 this year. CC was an outgrowth



But in the mid-’60s I read every issue, like every other boy I knew — maybe the girls were reading it, too, but how would I have known? Then I outgrew it, along with brush cuts and going to Mass, and like an imaginary friend who vanishes without a trace, *Mad* disappeared.

“And the fact is, I was happy to let it go, because something about *Mad* and the rituals of reading *Mad* scared the shit out of me. It was ‘kewl,’ and funny, sure, and naughty enough that it seemed weird that Mom and Dad actually let us read it. And it was intimidating. I could never really be sure I was in on the joke — was in fact pretty sure I wasn’t. And it was really creepy, it made me want to not be a kid anymore. At 10, 11, 12 years old in the world of suburban Detroit boys, what was in each new issue was necessary, vital information. I wanted to be 30, so I could ignore it without the worry that I’d miss out on some essential shared snickering. Alfred E. Neuman’s viciously smug and stupid look wasn’t funny to me; it was scary. ‘What, me worry?’ represented some opaque meaning that I never grasped, beyond knowing that it would be really stupid to ever admit it. (If *Seinfeld* had been on TV back then, or if I knew any people like *that* back then, or if I’d had any understanding

on smaller kids. For most of us, *Mad* magazine was just a phase that came after comics and before *Playboy*. ‘What, me still clueless?’”

By the way, I saw a stack of the magazine at a recent flea market, and purchased one to send to Dan to help him work through his grief.

**Jim Dolan** and his wife, Yasmin, spent time in May in their new favorite city, Copenhagen. Jim describes it as “totally chill ... heard no sirens or truck noises ... hell, the cars all shut down at intersections and only restart when the light turns green.” Quite different than the street noises in Philadelphia, their hometown. Jim proposed to Yasmin and they became engaged at the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and then married 15 years ago, during a monsoon, in Baltimore.

*The Dead Don’t Die*, the latest from **Jim Jarmusch**, kicked off the Cannes Film Festival in May, 35 years after his landmark 1984 feature, *Stranger Than Paradise*, played the same festival and won the Caméra d’Or prize for best first feature.

After 22 years with Cuddy & Feder, **Bob Schneider** retired as special counsel in July. He had handled commercial and public finance transactions, long-term and revolving credit loans and commercial,



Ken Howitt ’76 (left) and Dennis Goodrich ’76 with Goodrich’s dog, Mika.





Several members of the Class of 1976 met in July for dinner on Morningside Heights. Left to right: John Connell, Mark "Wojo" Wojciechowski, Steve Davis, Robert Erlanger, Mozelle Thompson, Ken Howitt and Jon Margolis.

from a course offered during WWI to educate ROTC students about the issues leading to war in Europe. The focus switched to maintaining peace and became the course that you remember.

"The Reunion Keynote featured actor Maggie Gyllenhaal '99 and screenwriter Beau Willimon '99, SOA'03 talking about the challenges of telling stories in films and television. Ms. Gyllenhaal appeared for a 9:30 a.m. session after working until 2 a.m. filming the next season of *The Deuce* for HBO, indicating marked devotion to alma mater.

"I spent a night in Wallach Hall; it was called Livingston in our time and has been extensively renovated and modernized. The rooms are small, bathrooms are in the hall (but quite nice) and the furnishings are spartan, but for \$99 a night with free parking, it's a great bargain for a New York vacation. It's not too far from our 45th reunion, and I hope to see all of you there."

I had a great dinner in July with **Steve Davis, Robert Erlanger, Jon Margolis, Mark "Wojo" Wojciechowski, John Connell and Mozelle Thompson**. We all were interested to hear Mozelle's views on the presidential race and he was very reluctant to share his opinions (NOT!). But more importantly, we talked about Steve on 7 Carman, me on 10 Carman and Mark, Mozelle and Rob on 13 Carman during our first year at Columbia. John and Jon started as commuters and ended up in John Jay (appropriately!) before the end of our freshman year. Lots of laughs, good food at Pisticci and great memories. The only downside for me was that I had to spend two and a half hours with six lawyers.

Side note on the dinner: This was the first time that '76ers had an ad

hoc gathering outside of a formal university setting. I have been suggesting just this kind of gathering since taking over Class Notes, and now we have a core group and a great place. With the stories, conversations, laughs and drink, it was just like a night on 2 Hartley almost 45 years ago. Be in touch if you want to enlarge the Magnificent Seven! We will do it again before the end of 2019.

A few classmates sent regrets that they were not able to join us: **Mike Yeager, Steve Mackey and Robert Siegfried**. Robert sent this update: "I'm at Adelphi University, and my wife, Kathy, and our son, Jason, and I live in Oceanside, N.Y. (Long Island). Jason is due to finish his bachelor's after this semester as a computer science major with a history minor. And as long as my mind/body permits me, I'll keep teaching."

"A former student of mine, Kathy Herbert, is married to John Berger, one of Professor Koji Nakanishi's former post-docs. I had Professor Nakanishi for Organic Chemistry 2 and while I struggled to understand his English (the acoustics of 309 Havemeyer didn't help), I found him to be quite gracious in my limited direct contact with him. John and Kathy were at his 90th birthday celebration. It's humbling and awe-inspiring to realize that I had the good fortune to be taught by people like Ronald Breslow, Koji Nakanishi and Arthur Nowick GSAS'50. (Nowick was in what is now Columbia Engineering). We had the opportunity to walk in the shadows of giants."

When I sent an email requesting updates, I mentioned my recent sign-up for Medicare. **Tim Teeter** is also a Medicare team member and sent this: "First, I am myself starting Medicare but still work and am not planning to retire quite yet — but I

can see it over the horizon. I teach in the Department of History at Georgia Southern University and live in Savannah, Ga.

"My wife, Toni, passed away last December — I met her through a connection in Butler Library some 35 years ago and our first date was at Symposium on West 113th Street. I'm doing the usuals — giving papers, attending conferences (next one is in Lecce, Italy), conducting study-abroad programs and the like. Anyone who remembers me is welcome to give me a heads up if they're going to be in Savannah."

In closing, let's keep reconnecting. Homecoming is Saturday, October 19, and I hope to see you all at the pre-game barbecue. Look for the table that has the Leo the Lion puppet (seriously!). It will be great to see you.

Most importantly, stay in touch, and let us know how you, your career and family are doing.

## 1977

**David Gorman**  
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Some of us are retired now; others, not so much.

In the first category is **Peter Beller**, who retired in June from Hartford Hospital, where he was for 12 years medical director of the Women's Ambulatory Health Services. "Now playing golf, riding my bike and paddling my kayak. Also doing per diem coverage at Planned Parenthood clinics," he reports. "So far, so good."

In the second category are **Mike Aroney and Greg Ball**. In 2014, Greg moved from Johns Hopkins to the University of Maryland College Park to become dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Having finished a term and gone through the review process, Greg reports that he has "been informed by the provost that I will have a second five-year term that has just started. So my academic life will continue."

At least until 2025, if I'm counting right. Greg adds, "I'm always happy to welcome fellow Columbians in the D.C. area."

Meanwhile, Mike wrote in July that he'd just returned from seven

months in the United Arab Emirates, where he was working on an engineering project. He, his wife, Kathy, and "our two large dogs and I made it home just before the oppressive summer heat descended on Abu Dhabi. My current work assignment will keep us confined to North America and presents the opportunity to make it to Homecoming once again this year, with the usual bribe of a Broadway show so Kathy will join me at the game on Saturday, October 19."

I was also glad — and impressed — to hear from **Jon Fraser** that his play *The Last Box* was included in *Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2019*, and that his latest one-act play, *Ms. Thule Won't Be Coming Back*, was produced by New Circle Theater Company as part of its Inferno Project: Greed & Wrath festival at The Chain Theatre in New York City in June.

Please take a moment to send in your news, and have a great fall!

## 1978

**Matthew Nemerson**  
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It is clear to me that climate change has finally impacted the class column — what else can explain the pitiful lack of enthusiasm to share precious news with your classmates? I chalk it up to the 100-degree weather across much of the country that holds vast numbers of 1978ers. While you were deciding it was too hot or humid to bother with dear old Columbia, I was in the always-seasonable Galapagos Islands learning about the finer points of evolution and seeing what sort of natural vegetation led to stronger alumni participation on one island versus another. Something to do with bar stool height at The Gold Rail as opposed to average room size in John Jay or Carman. Or was it the color of the ivy on Hamilton Hall? But I digress.

**Kevin Vitting**, when he's not doing the things you do in the Nephrology Group in Ridgewood, N.J., has other pursuits and reports that he's been "enjoying my summer reading sessions with the Masterwork Chorus — so far we've sung Mendelssohn's 'Elijah,' Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and Haydn's 'Lord Nelson Mass.'"



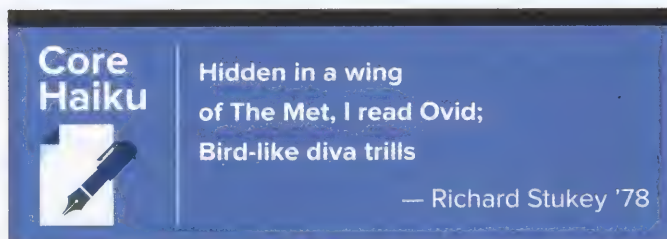
From a longtime, first-time (as I think WFAN still allows people to self-identify) classmate we hear, one hopes not for the last time, from **Daniel Kohn**: "I am the rabbi of the town of Bat Ayin, Israel, for close to 28 years. I have seven children; five are married with children. I teach, facilitate psycho-therapeutic groups, conduct Jewish meditation seminars and host musical evenings at which I play and sing. My wife, Batya, runs a school for young women seeking to deepen their Jewish spiritual life."

And finally, from the man who introduced me to sports radio many decades ago, **Tom Mariam** notes, "Excited to report that my son Michael graduated from Blind Brook H.S. and is now at Emory University."

Not one to pass up a chance at an easy pun, when commenting on the Yankees's chances, Tom weighed in:

requirement. What a relief I didn't have to take Russian like Sid Holt '79. Too hard! But on May 13 I was formally made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres at the French Cultural Services in New York, so I guess I'm more French than I realized. Naturally, in my speech, I thanked my mother, Christiane, who is 94 and an alumna of Columbia's American Language Program, where she learned English and fell in love with the novels of John Dos Passos. I'm sure her Columbia connection had a lot to do with my wanting to go to the College."

I want to recognize that our class's prodigious talent at leading journalistic enterprises continues: in addition to *Harper's* (Rick) and *The New York Times* (**Dean Baquet**), **D.D. Guttenplan** has now taken the helm at *The Nation*. This is from his introductory letter a few months ago,



Yes, they are good, "though it's hard to Judge."

During the almost-as-hot summer of 1978, **John R. "Rick" MacArthur** and I drove to Washington, D.C., where he was about to start an apprenticeship at the old *Washington Star*, back when it was a good paper and a classic "front-page" type opportunity — he worked every beat, including police and obits. I was working for Sen. Abe Ribicoff (D-Conn.) that summer. A few years later when I was working at the *Washington Monthly*, our paths crossed again, and I tried to recruit Rick to join the *Monthly* as an editor. Just about that time, Rick's grandfather died and the rest is, as they say history, as Rick convinced the subsequent foundation's board to purchase *Harper's Magazine*, where he has remained (I assume) the longest-serving publisher in America.

Rick writes, "When I was a freshman I thought the best thing about growing up in a bilingual household was placing out of the language

"Though I've been an editor-at-large and contributor to this extraordinary publication for many years, serving its vaunted legacy as editor makes me even more keenly aware of the critical role reader support plays in our strength and independence."

My new company, Budderfly, is doing well; we raised \$55 million to expand our energy efficiency as a service business to areas such as governments, commercial properties, assisted living and the businesses that actually use the most electricity per square foot of any in the country — fast food.

It turns out that America wastes about a third of its commercially used electricity, or about \$60 billion worth a year. And so, we end where we began. While some of you are writing about the end of the world on a daily or monthly basis, our company is trying to save the world for a few more years. Which means that some of you will have to keep writing in to the column, because this is the one place that will always be very cool.

## 1979

**Robert Klapper**  
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**Ethan Heisler** reports: "After retiring from Citi in May 2016, I launched a paid subscription newsletter and ran it for 22 months, then got hired by Kroll Bond Rating Agency last year to continue publishing my newsletter on its platform. I work from home on Long Island and, at 62, found a gig I can continue for, I hope, years to come. Regards!"

**Allan Hoving** updates us: "Two years ago, we dropped off our youngest at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., and I wondered why we were heading back to Connecticut, especially after driving down along the coast between Los Angeles and San Diego. In May, we relocated to a little beach town north of La Jolla and we're not coming back (except for periodic dental cleanings; that hygienist is a keeper!). My digital marketing work has turned freelance/remote; I'm an online instructor in the graduate program of the S.I. Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University, and my agent is trying to sell two novels to the movies or streaming TV. Sorry I missed the 40th, but sending regards from the Golden State."

**Michael P. Kelly** is finishing his 10th year as chair of McCarter & English in Wilmington, Del. He shares, "My daughter Joanna graduated from the College in 2014. I am happy to report that I am cancer-free after being diagnosed with stage IIIB gall bladder cancer in 2017. Thanks — from the bottom of my heart — to my fellow CU alums who offered their prayers and encouragement. Hope to see you at the next reunion."

**Karim H. Karim** writes, "I hadn't planned to write my memoirs in any form, but was interviewed recently about my career studying Muslims for the forthcoming book *The Production of 'Islams'*. The questions inevitably took me back to my years studying at Columbia for a major in Islamic studies. I went on to earn a master's at McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies and then crossed the campus for a Ph.D. in communication studies, examining the depiction

of Muslims in mainstream media. The thesis was published a few months before 9-11 as a book, *Islamic Peril: Media and Global Violence*, for which I received the 2001 Robinson Book Prize. I am a professor at Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication in Ottawa, Canada, and director of the Carleton Centre for the Study of Islam. The interview will be published as the chapter titled 'Unpacking the Production of "Islams": My Journey of Forty Years.' My email address is karim\_karim@carleton.ca."

**Fernando Koatz** attended our 40th reunion and writes, "I am practicing law in my own firm, keeping busy with work, lecturing and traveling when necessary. My kids are out of college; one working in San Francisco for LinkedIn, the other one here in New York doing marketing and social media. My wife is an assistant principal in a public school in Forest Hills, Queens, where we have been living for nearly 30 years."

**Thomas A. Kligerman's** update: "We recently sold our house in New Jersey and are now full-time residents of New York City. We have bought an apartment in Murray Hill and are about to embark on a total renovation. Given that I see construction up close on a daily basis, I am filled with excitement tempered by a good dose of trepidation."

"Our youngest daughter, Magdalen, is in her second year at The American University of Paris. Katherine, our middle daughter, is entering her final year at the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture. Our eldest, Rebecca, lives in Brooklyn and does PR for various companies to New York City."

"As I write this I am sitting in a shingle-style cottage in the seaside town of Weekapaug, R.I. We take this house from June 1 through the end of August every year. It is the perfect antidote to Manhattan. I have been coming here since I was 10 and have friends here that go way back — more than half a century. As we all know, time flies."

"Work at the Ike Kligerman Barkley architecture firm is very busy. I feel incredibly lucky to have great clients who want houses in an array of beautiful places. We have projects underway in Martha's Vineyard, South Carolina, Canada, California and the Hamptons, as well as New





York City and other places. A lot of travel but a lot of great experiences!

"Periodically, I walk around the Morningside Heights campus. The architects who designed the campus, McKim, Mead & White, are a constant source of inspiration for me, as are all the things I learned at Columbia and my memories of this great university."

**Robert C. Klapper:** "Today's Columbia memory actually comes from this column. I got a nice note from legendary baseball writer **Bob Klapisch** about his new book, *Inside the Empire: The True Power Behind the New York Yankees*. As I put together this column, it occurred to me that I have never met or spoken with Bob. Truth be told, during the four years on Morningside Heights, I got some of his mail, and I'm sure he got some of mine.

"I couldn't help but let him know that I have hosted a radio show on ESPN for eight and a half years and that I would love to have him on as a guest to talk about all things baseball — and maybe a little bit about his memories of playing baseball at Baker Field. If you recall, in our yearbook there is a full page devoted to Bob. He's on the pitcher's mound wherein the four-sequence photo you see him winding up, throwing the pitch, then realizing *ooo!* the ball's been hit and then seeing him looking up at the home run he has just given up, without ever showing you the batter. It's a classic.

"I found out that Bob's given name is Roberto, and that many of his friends have called him Robby Klapper, which really made me smile. (I reminded him that I had the only Jewish mother who did not throw away her son's baseball cards; she had saved my shoebox filled with the entire 1968 Topps set and, in addition to Nolan Ryan's rookie card, my favorite card is of Roberto Clemente, the legendary Pittsburgh Pirate from Puerto Rico.) This is my favorite card in the set because his name is listed as 'Bob' Clemente, because in America in 1968 they were not going to call him 'Roberto.' Bob reminded me that his mom is Brazilian and he has a whole other life as Roberto Klapisch, where he writes for a Spanish-speaking audience.

"I've interviewed hundreds of guests on my show — from Dick Butkus to Isaiah Thomas — but Bob was, by far, one of my favorites. You can hear the interview on the ESPN podcast for *Weekend Warrior*. Bob's gift as a storyteller is second to none.

"He very heavily credits his four years at the College with helping him see the beautiful connection of art and sports. It made me once again appreciate the value of the Core Curriculum on my life these 40 years after graduation. Bob's story of riding the subway to Baker Field for the first day of baseball practice and encountering a violent gang who took over the subway car, and how he survived the train ride, made

it clear to all of my listeners what a special talent he really has. Who knew that in creating this column, such a beautiful reunion on the radio would be possible?

"Roar, lion, roar!"

## 1980

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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Fall is almost here. Lions Head Football Coach Al Bagnoli has the team competing at the highest levels, and let's hope that **Dave Maloof's** Jets are playing well. I hope to see many familiar faces at Homecoming on Saturday, October 19, enjoying the tailgating experience.

It's hard to believe that in 2020 we will celebrate our 40th reunion. Seems like only yesterday that we were ascending upon Morningside Heights, full of energy and big ideas. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, "Columbia College Class of 1980 Reunion," for details.

Best to all, and drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

## 1981

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I heard from **Daniel Gordis**, who has spent the last 21-plus years in Jerusalem, where he helped found Israel's first liberal arts college, Shalem College, based (in part, and not surprisingly!) on the Core Curriculum.

On the eve of turning 60, Daniel and his wife are taking a short break from daily Jerusalem life and have relocated to Cambridge, Mass., for a couple of months. Their daughter is living in the United States while studying at MIT, and their son-in-law is at Harvard (this explains the Cambridge sabbatical, I guess). They

are celebrating the birth of a second granddaughter, and being close by, this involves helping with childcare, carpools, shopping and so on. Daniel is working remotely for Shalem, and is back into the world of child raising (an exhausting and humbling reminder of why they had children decades ago!). Daniel recently published his 12th book, *We Stand Divided: The Rift Between American Jews and Israel*.

As it's the class correspondent's task to share both good and bad news, what follows is certainly the latter. I learned from **Ed Klees** that **Stephen McPartland** passed away last year. Steve had many health issues, moved to Florida decades ago and pretty much kept to himself. He was a beloved member of Fiji, and when word got out, we swapped memories of being with Steve McP many years ago.

Those who knew him all had a favorite Steve McP story. Steve was described by his classmates as extremely smart, funny, kind/gentle, with keen powers of observation — he wasn't pushy or loud, and was an extremely genuine guy. There was a bit of mystery to Steve McP; he was dubbed "the James Bond of Bayside."

I thank Ed for letting us know, and for **Jason Zweig '82**, **Jeff Pundyk**, **Brian Krisberg**, **Jeff Haberman '80**, **Jon Dahl '80**, **Louis Napoli '83** and **Mike Kinsella** for sharing stories about his life. To attend Columbia in the late 1970s was to be exposed to true individuals such as Steve McP, and for this I'm incredibly grateful.

## 1982

**Andrew Weisman**  
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Greetings, gents. After a two-issue respite — due in part to my email going on the fritz and a general malaise experienced by all of us — we're back in business.

I've decided to get the ball rolling with an update of my own. It was bound to happen: In June I turned 60. The wife, Jody (née Abramowitz) BC'84, SIPA'85, and I have now been married for 33 wonderful years and we celebrated my birthday by riding our bicycles from Vienna to Prague. Amazing time, and I highly



Longtime friends (left to right) Shawn FitzGerald '80, Mike Brown '80, Eric Blattman '80, Joe Ciulla '80, John Hall '81 and Scott Ahern '80 met up on the North Fork of Long Island this past summer.



recommend you put this on your bucket list!

After three years, my term as president of the Society of Columbia Graduates came to an end. It was an amazing and fulfilling experience to have the opportunity to present the Great Teacher Award three times. The award ceremony occurs during Reunion Weekend; it's open to all and well worth 90 minutes of your day to celebrate our talented and generous professors.

Jody and I were blessed with three wonderful children. Our oldest, Hannah, is now putting the final touches on her doctoral dissertation at the London School of Economics. Our middle one, Izzy, completed a year as a graduate fellow with the National Nuclear Security Administration while doing research at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. She recently started working for "Z-Division," a joint venture between the Department of Energy and the CIA. How scary is that? Your guess is as good as mine as to what she does there. Our youngest, Henry, finished Regis Jesuit H.S. here in Denver (interesting choice for a bar mitzvah boy, don't you think?) and is now at Colby College in Maine. If any of you get to Denver, look me up — dinner's on me!

A couple of folks checked in this period. **Mark Monane** says hello to everyone and bemoans the recent lack of classmate participation. **Larry Braverman** checked in with some serious concerns about the meager funding of the Columbia University Marching Band and its fight over their appearance in Butler Library on Orgo Night; clearly that cherished 40-plus year tradition must be protected!

Last but not least, our devoted classmate **John Mastrodimos** checked in: "In 2014, I moved in with my parents to be primary caregiver. They were under hospice care at the same time for a year and a half. It was a difficult time in my life. I found solace in The Stanhope House. The S.H. is a legendary roadhouse and blues establishment in Stanhope, N.J. On Tuesday nights I would venture to the club for its open mic night. The club is 10 minutes away from my parents' home. I could go out for the evening knowing that if my parents needed me, I was but 10 minutes away.

"I play percussion: drums, bongos and timbales. Playing at the open mic was one of my few pleasures.

Another pleasure was seeing the club's house band, the Stanhope House Rhythm & Blues Revue, perform. The Revue featured a dozen top-notch musicians, including a three-piece horn section. Every Tuesday, after the open mic, I would stay up into the wee hours, watching the Revue rehearse. I was an audience of one, and they didn't seem to mind my being there. They were my favorite band.

"Recently, I've made a niche for myself playing percussion, especially bongos, at the open mic. Occasionally, I will sit in with some of the Revue's members, and I've become bold enough to start playing with them regularly, which brings me great joy! I recently played an entire set with the band on their home turf. We were scheduled to play again two weeks later, and yes, I'll be playing with my favorite band again!

"The band is fronted by Jon Kline, the 75-year-old owner, with a voice like sandpaper and glue. This man lives and breathes the blues. I owe my place in the band thanks to his kindness and big heart.

"My parents have passed away, but my frequenting the club regularly, and sitting in with the Revue, continues. My parents were always supportive of my music. I know that they would be pleased that I am now pursuing my passion for music, and especially, my playing at the S.H., with great approval!"

John, thanks for the wonderful update!

Now let's all chip in and send news!

## 1983

**Roy Pomerantz**  
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From **David Lyle**: "Paul Lerner and I got together for lunch at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in Pasadena. My husband, Douglas Murray, and I and our daughters, Mary and Frances, were visiting Los Angeles from Nashville. Paul's husband, Stephen Reis, was part of the company, too."

**Bill Spiegelberger**: "After 15 years in Moscow, I left Russia in December 2017 to rejoin my family in Vienna. The timing turned out to

be good. In April 2018 my former employer RUSAL was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department, at which point it would have been impossible to continue working there. But I didn't leave Russia because of anticipated sanctions. I left because the thrill was gone; Russia had become grimly predictable. In Vienna I've taken up writing about Russian domestic and foreign policy. The Foreign Policy Research Institute recently published two of my articles: *The Sources of Post-Soviet Conduct* (Russia is aggressive abroad because it is weak at home — neurotic, really) and *Anatomy of a Muddle: U.S. Sanctions against RUSAL and Oleg Deripaska* (United States was pressing buttons like a monkey at a typewriter). I'm now halfway through writing a book about the Russian political protests from a few years ago. Working title:

in freshman year. I sometimes stay with him and his husband, Stephen Reis, when I'm in Los Angeles.

"I am a musical director, conductor and vocal coach for Broadway performers. Through the years, I've amassed one of the larger privately held collections of sheet music around. I get requests for that obscure piece of sheet music that no one can find every day. My teaching has taken me all over the world. For the past 10 years, I've been teaching twice a year all over Australia in its conservatories. I've also taught in Singapore, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Lausanne (Switzerland), Italy, India and many more places. I love traveling. I've been Executive Platinum on American Airlines for many years, which shows my obsessiveness with mileage! I'm in my 30th year living across the street from Juilliard/Lincoln Center. I don't get to Columbia

### Core Haiku



Gloomy freshman year  
Reading books I cannot pronounce;  
My mind freezes over.

— Kevin Cronin '83

*The Ephemeral R/evolution. The Art of Russian Civil Protest 2011–2014.* My next project will be a musical comedy about terrorism and assassination, *No Polonium, Please. We're British!* In this dark, Merovingian-like age we live in, I think it's best to have a martini and a laugh."

**Michael Lavine**: "I have such fond memories of my time at Columbia. Two of my favorite professors were Wallace Gray and Peter Awn (who passed away on February 17, 2019). When I took my junior year abroad in London, I found myself in Dublin on James Joyce's 100th birthday. I picked up copies of all the local newspapers and gave them to Professor Gray. He then gave them out as prizes to his star students in his great 'Eliot, Joyce, Pound' class.

"I can picture Sam Steinberg sitting outside Ferris Booth Hall like it was yesterday with his chocolate bars shouting 'I've got the big ones!' I actually have three or four original Sam Steinberg drawings on rectangular cards. I'm in touch with **Paul Lerner**, whom I met my first week

that often, but when I do, I love just walking through the campus. I'd love to hear from fellow alumni. I'm at [broadwaymhl@aol.com](mailto:broadwaymhl@aol.com)."

**Victor Cha**: "It's a year of anniversaries for me. This year, I have tallied 25 years of teaching at Georgetown University where I hold the D.S. Song-KF Chair in Government and am vice-dean of faculty and graduate affairs in the School of Foreign Service. I also completed 10 years as senior advisor and Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. My work as an NBC News and MSNBC contributor brings me back to New York frequently, and I enjoy occasionally sneaking up on the 1 train to 116th street and sitting on the Steps for coffee and reminiscing. One of my sons was a campus organizer for John Delaney '85!"

**James Lo**: "I've been creating compositions and sound designs for downtown contemporary dance, the last three of which were for Donna Uchizono at The Joyce Theater, Neil





Greenberg at The Chocolate Factory Theater and Molly Lieber/Eleanor Smith at New York Live Arts. I also develop interactive props and set pieces for theater, and am excited to be adding basic robotics to my bag of tricks. There are days I miss the big enterprise software tools I used to use, but I never miss the pressure, arbitrary engineering trends or politics of my old job. I'm happily married to Amy Chin BC'83, whom I hope to be more like someday. I ran into **Michael Azerrad** seven years ago at the Pitchfork Music Festival, which was coincidentally the last show I played as a drummer. Time appears to be accelerating; can you feel it?"

**Eddy Friedfeld:** "I'm getting a second bite at the apple on this entry since *CCT* inadvertently left out my good friend and now longtime doctor, the brilliant dermatologist and Mohs surgeon **David Kriegel**. We're going to do this until we get it right: 'On September 29, 2018, I had the honor of performing the wedding ceremony of **Tracy Klestadt** to Esther Duval in Bridgehampton in a sunset wedding on the beach. Since graduating from Columbia, I have also had the privilege of alternatively officiating, being best man, groomsman, toastmaster or writing about the weddings of **Adam Bayroff**, **Paul Ehrlich**, **Neal Smolar**, **Danny Schultz**, **Roy Pomerantz**, **David Kriegel**, **Len Rosen**, **Steve Arenson**, **Jon White** '85 and **Allison White** BC'86 (née Breitbart), and **Judy Landis** BC'85 (née Enteles), honors I hold dear, and all of whom remain close friends."

**Tom Licata:** "After 25 years in the semiconductor industry, I retired from that sector, earned a Series 79 investment banking certification, and now do ad hoc work with start-ups, and some consulting. I also vigorously participate in musical activities. I've gotten back to my roots with the Columbia Glee Club, singing with the Oregon Chorale for the past few years, performing a broad repertoire including classical masterworks by Mortan Lauridsen, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Heniyk Gorecki and so forth, and occasional performances with the Oregon Symphony and Beaverton Symphony Orchestra. We recently completed a tour of Eastern Oregon to support the local groups there."

"Through 2018 I was executive producer for my older son's first pro album, *Thom Moot - Moot Points*, which can be found on bandcamp.com. I also provided the keyboard work for the song 'Autumn.' I don't currently have a hobby band up and running, but some previous instances can be found on Soundcloud including Cats and Jammers, Port4 and RainTrek. These are all live recordings made just for fun."

"Best wishes to the Columbia community! The light of truth and sound governance are needed now more than ever!"

**Jon Ross:** "I went to Indonesia for June and July to do an assessment on Lombok and to visit our [MicroAid] projects in Nepal. Please let me know if you want to visit or if you have contacts in Indo."

**David Hershey-Webb:** "I first came to NYC to live 40 years ago

this past summer. Somewhere there's a photo of our white Saab with a roof rack crammed with my stuff, including a bike, parked in front of Beta Theta Pi, with its red, white and blue columns, on West 113th Street, off Broadway. Dave Humor, a friend of my high school buddy Stephen, had found a room in the run-down, rat-infested, trash-strewn, alcohol-soaked fraternity for the summer. The three of us lived there that summer, across the street from campus. The night we got here Stephen and I rode our bikes from West 113th Street to the Battery, where we stood and looked out across the harbor at the Statue of Liberty."

"We had loft beds, which the rats couldn't reach. We listened to Some Girls (rats on the west side/bedbugs uptown/this town's in tatters/look at me!). We followed the Sandinista Revolution, rooting for the Sandinistas. NYC was dirty and dangerous and loud with graffiti all over the subways and muggers everywhere and weed and coke and music and beggars and squeegee men and ceilings falling in and no heat or hot water and sirens and scammers and sweaty dancers and sex — in other words, heaven for three 19-year-old boys."

"I must have lost my bike because I bought another at Metro Bikes on West 96th Street, next to the plant store, and got a job with mobile messengers. For the next couple of months I rode up and down the avenues carrying packages to modeling agencies and ad agencies and taking in the street scene."

"At night we sat on the Low Steps and drank and talked about history and philosophy and revolution and music. We were Marxists and idealists and hedonists."

"One evening that summer Jimmy Carter gave what came to be called his 'malaise' speech. I watched it with the frat boys. I agreed with much of what Carter was saying and was not a little frightened by the drunk frat boys screaming 'fuck you' at the TV screen. A little more than a year later they'd bring us Reagan, and later the unnamable one."

"I was in Love. With NYC. But it was an odd kind of love. I loved it in part because it was bad. It was gruesome murder and the stench of poverty. It was greed. It was scamming. It was heartbreak. It was broken glass. A car smashing into a light post. A man walking

up to a woman on the street and slapping her. A man walking up and down Broadway sticking a needle into people. I loved it all because I carried so much pain inside and it expressed what I felt."

"And there were the little flowers pushing through the pavement. The camaraderie of friends. A soulful street singer. Block party dancers. Merengue and salsa. Lovers on Sheep Meadow. Ninety-year-old communists in a basement clubhouse, with a beautiful dream still. The afternoon light on the ornate old buildings of the Upper West Side. The determination and passion in the faces of every complexion. The clothes, the clothes, the clothes, wild hats and crazy coats and white gloves and plaid shorts and red fish net stockings and black leather pants and feather boas and platform shoes and alligator boots and the girl with the faraway eyes and Puerto Rican girls just wanna and it doesn't matter and when the whip comes down and shattered shattered and you're so respectable and the White House lawn and I'm so hot for you and you can't give it away on Seventh Avenue, in 1979."

## 1984

**Dennis Klainberg**  
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With thanks to the Reunion Committee and the Alumni Office staff, our 35th reunion was great fun and a huge success. The stories! The reminiscences! The career updates! The interactions with old (and new) friends. Simply put, a real pleasure for all who attended.

Events included a get-together with many Barnard alumnae at La Palapa (with thanks to owner Barbara Sibley BC'92); various classes; lunches; a wine tasting; a joint reception with the Classes of '74 and '79; our class dinner; and a final chance to "dance under the stars" on Low Plaza and College Walk.

In attendance: **Jon Abbot**, **David Adler**, **Madhu Alagiri**, **Paul Auwaeter**, **Michael Bozzo**, **Paul Burke**, **Newt Burkett**, **Antonio Cancio**, **Evelyn Chaleki**, **Tom Chaleki**, **Daniel Cohen**, **Patrick**

## Holler at Us in Haiku!

**Core, one hundred years!**  
**What's a fun way to note it?**  
**Poetry from you.**



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku**. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu), and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.



Conroy, Christine Cronin, John Feeney, Robert Feinstein, Lawrence Finkel, Thomas Gilman, David Godfried, Langham Gleason, James Gorton, El Gray, Mark Green, Michael Hall, Eric Hansen, Reggie Henderson, Ronald Hubsher, Patricia Huie, Larry Kane, Brian Kennedy, Dennis Kleinberg, Frank Lang, Rupert Li, Douglas Lindgren, Elias Lolis, Douglas Mintz, Christopher Nollet, Najmuddin Patwa, Nathaniel Polis, Ben Pushner, Tom Samuelson, Steven Saunders, Michael Scherz, Peter Schmidt, Karl Schmuck, Paul Schwartzbaum, Phil Segal, Chip Seibert, Larry Silo, Mark Simon, John Stackfleth, David Stewart, Edwin Trayner, Wayne Weddington, Jim Weinstein, Carlton Wessel and Barak Zimmerman. Special guests at our class dinner included Beth Knobel BC'84, David Filosa '82 and spouses/partners/children/friends.

Kudos and many, many thanks to our riveting and simply amazing guest speaker, **Michael Massimino SEAS'84**, an accomplished engineer and astronaut, and now a professor at Columbia Engineering.

Special thanks to **Tom Gilman** and **Carl Wessel**, who were the co-chairs of our Class Gift Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you all in five years, or at Homecoming (Saturday, October 19) or at one of our old stomping grounds (V&T, Symposium, Mondel, The Hungarian Pastry Shop, Koronet, Tom's), or one of my new favorites (Le Monde, Mel's Burger Bar, Dinosaur BBQ, The Heights and other great neighborhood venues.)

Roar, Lion, Roar!

## 1985

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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James Walsh is directing a new show, *As Much As I Can*, at Joe's Pub/The Public Theater in NYC

in September. He writes, "It is a powerful piece, about the hidden HIV/AIDS epidemic in the black community, which I co-created with pharma giant GlaxoSmithKline (see more info at [bit.ly/2LUV7J8](http://bit.ly/2LUV7J8)). *As Much As I Can* is regarded as a seminal work of theater based on personal stories of the subjects of a five-year ethnographic study, as profiled in this *New York Times Magazine* cover story from 2017: [nyti.ms/336WJVx](http://nyti.ms/336WJVx).

"There's an interesting story in the saga of how *As Much As I Can* came to be from a corporate commission — from a drug company, no less — and the creative journey we've taken over the past two and a half years from Jackson, Miss., to Off-Broadway.

"Our show won a Cannes Lion, one of several prestigious media, creative and social consciousness honors that have been bestowed upon the piece since our New York run in Harlem last May."

My wife, Allison, attended a swearing-in for new citizens in Suffolk County, and saw Magistrate **Gary Brown** officiating. I was told (to my complete non-surprise) that Judge Brown did an amazing job overseeing the ceremony and offering wonderful words of wisdom and congratulations. Even more exciting, Gary has been re-nominated to serve as a district judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Gary has served in the Eastern District since his selection in 2011 and also serves as an adjunct professor at St. John's University School of Law. He served on the Committee of Administration Magistrate Judges System, appointed to manage more than 1,400 Superstorm Sandy cases. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Gary served as the director of litigation and chief compliance officer of CA Technologies and as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York for more than 15 years, concluding his service as the chief of the Long Island Criminal Division.

In this 50th anniversary year of the Apollo 11 moon landing, **Tom Vinciguerra JRN'86**, GSAS'90's most recent *New York Times* piece was appropriately titled, "How 'The Twilight Zone' First Saw Man on the Moon." The 1959 pilot episode, airing a decade before the first moon



Four track teammates and a friend went to London in January to watch some Premier League soccer games. Left to right: Chris Erker, Andre O'Reggio '87, Ward Bobitz '86, Doug Teasdale '89 and Dave McCarty '86.

landing, bore what would become the series' hallmark: narrating Cold War anxieties through a mix of science and superstition.

And speaking of anniversary years, our 35th reunion will be celebrated Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. Please mark your calendar and try to be there for some, if not all, of the weekend. Just as importantly, please volunteer to be on the Reunion Committee. There's not a ton of work involved — one big goal is to maximize our attendance, and to do this we will want to get a wide range of ideas about what kind of venues might be fun. To help get classmates here, we would love to have plenty of folks to reach out to classmates and encourage them to attend. Aside from the usual phone/email lists, the best way to do that is through clubs or teams or dorm floors/suites that were part of your Columbia community. I have found that this is consistently the best way to increase the size of our group.

Even if you can't help out with the planning, feel free to shoot me an email with your ideas about our class-specific events. The "big events" are pretty much locked into the overall reunion schedule (class dinner, certain evening receptions, lectures and tours). However, there are a few class-specific opportunities in which we can plan unique events. We have had dinner at V&T a few times — should we go back, or is there another place to go to reminisce? (Unfortunately CDR, Cannon's and The College Inn are gone — if you haven't been back to Morningside Heights in a while, you won't recognize the neighborhood!)

If any classmates have a space we can use/tie into an event, or a neat connection for a lounge area for a party, please let us know (in past years,

we had a reception in **Brian Cousin's** law firm's office, and we went to the New York City Ballet and saw **John Phelan's** amazing daughter).

Just hold the reunion dates, and details will be forthcoming.

Even if you can't attend, help in the planning or suggest an event, at the very least you can send me a nice long update about where you are, how Columbia still has an impact on you 35 years later, what your most memorable moment is and so on.

## 1986

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Congrats to **Ben Schmidt** on his daughter, Isabel Schmidt, joining the Class of 2023. Ben is the Giovanni and Amne Costigan Endowed Professor of History at the University of Washington in Seattle. Ben, who earned a master's and Ph.D. from Harvard, teaches some interesting-sounding classes at UW. Last winter, he taught "Spain and Its Golden Age, 1469–1700," and last spring, "Exploration and Empire: The Art and Science of Global Power, 1300–1800."

**Ward Bobitz** sent us a nice update: "I have been in Richmond, Va., for nearly 23 years, working the entire time at Genworth Financial, where I now am general counsel. My career at Genworth, the world's largest underwriter of long-term care insurance, has been extremely interesting. In addition to confronting the societal challenges of funding the long-term care needs of our aging population, I have also been exposed to a variety of geopolitical





issues, as we have been operating under a merger agreement to be acquired by a Chinese company, China Oceanwide Holdings Group, since October 2016. We continue to seek the required regulatory approvals to close the transaction. The stamina that I developed running cross-country at Columbia is truly being put to the test by this deal!

"On the personal side, my wife, Kelley (Brown '87), and I have three great kids, Jack (20, a junior at Brown), Sam (18, at Michigan) and Cate (16). I frequently see many of my track teammates, including Jon Sycamore '85, SEAS'85; Terry Jones '85; **Dave McCarty**; Andre O'Reggio '87; and Doug Teasdale '89. Nearby is a photo of Dave, Doug, me, Andre and a non-Columbia friend from our January trip to London to watch a couple of Premier League soccer games. Most of us are too old to do any serious running, but we do enjoy watching soccer, which is probably influenced by our enjoyment of the great Columbia soccer teams of our era."

**Michael Goldfischer** reports on a fun Columbia-themed party: "On June 29, **Jeffrey Ammeen**, along with his daughters, Jade and Aja, hosted the family's Fifth Annual Summer Solstice musical celebration — 'Jeffapalooza,' a day of family, friends, live music, Columbia blue spirit and Fiji purple brotherhood. The Dude count was high at this one, and you can't tell me there was a better party going on anywhere. In attendance were fraternity brothers **William Golden BUS'93**; **Paul Marshall '85**; **James Hirshfield SEAS'87**, who attended with son Jack and

fiancée, Regina; **Mark Foss '87**; **Andrew Upton '85**; **Arthur Ajzenman '83** and his wife, Lisa; **William Flick '87**, with his wife, Leslie, and kids, Will, Charlie, Max and Nina; **Dominic DeCicco SEAS'84** and his son, Dante; **Bob Watson SEAS'86** and his wife, Sandy; and **Michael Goldfischer** with his sons, Jacob, Jared '21 and Noah. The Columbia spirit was enhanced by other alums, including **Edward Zahos** and his wife, Marilen, and kids, Alexander and Isabel; **Joe Policastro '87** and his daughter, Alessandra; and Columbia Lions Living Legend **Danny Upperco '85**.

"The musical entertainment consisted of Jeff playing lead guitar with his newest band, Charlie Don't Surf; **Michael Goldfischer** on lead electric mandolin with his band The Outside Band; and musical chairs with other great musicians hopping up and jamming, including Dominic's son, Dante. Nothing could prevent the day from being a rousing success, not even a torrential downpour, which almost blew down the stage. Dominic once again provided commemorative T-shirts, this year's in Columbia blue. From retelling old stories from 114th Street, to catching up on growing families, sharing a few cocktails of Clyde May's Whiskey, Prospero Tequila and Nemiroff Vodka, it was a day to remember. For those of you who can't get enough of CC'86 live rock and roll, the second annual Winterpalooza is scheduled for March 7 at the Stanhope House in Stanhope, N.J. The night will once again feature three bands fronted by CC'86ers: Jeff and The Doctor's bands mentioned earlier, opening for the headliner, and **Sherman Ewing**. Now Roar, Lion, Roar and Rock, Lion, Rock."

Our class's Jacques Cousteau, **Steve Klotz**, headed to Beqa Lagoon, Fiji, this past summer to observe and study inter-species shark feeding behaviors. His son, Daniel, studied at a summer program in Saint Petersburg and Moscow. His daughter, Alyxandra, started law school at The George Washington University in D.C.

**Mark Goldstein** updated us from Thousand Oaks, Calif: "Exciting transitions for our family. Shira is a freshman at University of Northern Colorado, and Risa is a junior in high school at the Besant Hill School in Ojai, Calif. My wife, Julie, is purchasing manager for Minimus,

specializing in all things travel and individual sized, from baked goods and snacks to personal care products. I protect the intellectual property of technology and business innovators at SoCal IP Law Group."

Many of us knew **Alex Navab '87** and were shocked and saddened to learn of his death on July 7, 2019, while on vacation with his family in Greece. He was a star at KKR for 24 years, and had launched Navab Capital Partners in April with a fundraising goal of \$3 billion. Alex was a class act and a mensch, and will be missed and remembered. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

## 1987

**Sarah A. Kass**  
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At press time, the shock waves are still reverberating from the tragic, sudden death of **Alex Navab**. There are many moving tributes and reminiscences elsewhere, but I am hoping that some of you will send in stories over the next few months. It would be lovely to publish a collection. Please consider contributing to the column. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Recently, my father, **Alvin Kass '57**, and I ventured to Mamaroneck, N.Y., to pay a visit to our former professor **Henry Graff GSAS'49**. We had read the previous week of the passing of his wife, Edith, and learned there would be a shiva in the assisted living facility where Professor Graff and his wife had been living. What a wonderful visit! Despite some physical infirmities, Professor Graff (97) seemed as sharp as ever, discussing with us topics ranging from baseball to politics. Professor Graff once told my father and I that we were possibly the only father-daughter pair that he had ever taught; he had taught many fathers and sons, but as far as he knew, we were the only father and daughter. (If anyone knows of other father-daughter pairs he taught, I'd love to hear about it!) While we were there, we also had a lovely chat with Dr. **Allen Hyman '55**. All in all, a wonderful and meaningful Columbia experience!

**Ralph Stone**, my next-door neighbor in Carman (literally on

the other side of my wall), wrote with news of our friend and fellow Carman 5 denizen, **Hugh Cushing**. Ralph writes, "In January, Hugh and his wife, Louise Dubin '92, had a baby girl. Hugh, who started with our class but graduated in 1988, has already started planning for their daughter to join the Class of, let us say, 2039."

I was also so happy to receive a note from **Michael Rubin**. He wrote: "By now, all of us are 'of a certain age' and given to reflecting on our Columbia experiences from a distance. In my case, however, although we live in the Boston area, I've been quite happy to stare at Columbia regularly. In early 2019 I dropped my younger daughter off on campus for her freshmen spring semester. And my first daughter graduated from the College in May 2018. Of course, in 1983, at the College's inaugural coeducational Class Day, I would never have predicted I'd have two daughters, and both would go to Columbia."

"On the home front, I've been interviewing prospective Columbia students as part of the Alumni Representative Committee, and I'm on the board of the Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life (Columbia/Barnard Hillel). It's great fun to be involved with the next generation! When not writing checks to Columbia, I'm the CEO of an augmented reality start-up and baking sourdough. I would love to hear from 'old' friends from McBain and Carman 8 (has everyone recovered by now from experiencing a dead body wrapped in a carpet on our floor?). You can reach me at [rubinmichaels@yahoo.com](mailto:rubinmichaels@yahoo.com)."

## 1988

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Professor **Graham Dodds** of Montreal's Concordia University writes that in June, "A half dozen CC'88ers got together for a barbecue in Trumbull, Conn." Dr. **Stephanie Sudikoff** of the Yale School of Medicine hosted the gathering. Others attending included **Al Bundonis**, **Nikos Andreadis**, **Shari Hyman** and **William Woo**. "The first five of those six all lived on Carman 9 back in the day," says Graham. "It was great to



Bill Flick '87 (left) and Michael Goldfischer '86 enjoyed music at "Jeffapalooza."





Some CC'88ers got together in June for a barbecue in Trumbull, Conn. Left to right: Stephanie Sudikoff, Al Bundonis, Nikos Andreadis, Graham Dodds, Shari Hyman and William Woo.

see so many friends from Columbia at an event other than a reunion, wedding or funeral."

**Stu Kaplan** PS'92 writes that he "recently obtained an M.B.A. at the University of Amsterdam and came back to the States (Bay Area) to become the executive director of Okizu, a cost-free camp for children, siblings and families affected by childhood cancer." According to Okizu's website, "The mission of Okizu is to help all members of families affected by childhood cancer to heal through peer support, respite, mentoring and recreational programs."

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you.

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
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More than 150 of us gathered in May to celebrate our spectacular 30th reunion as only CC'89 could, with classmates traveling from all over the world. There is nothing like reconnecting with people who loved us before we had careers and property and titles and domestic imperatives like soccer games and dirty dishes. Being with our dear old friends helps us remember and appreciate who we were at 19, and the stories recounted of our youthful selves are strengthened through our collective memories.

I asked classmates for their remembrances from the weekend. Here are some:

From **Jeff Udell**, who has been practicing law for the past few years at Walden Macht & Haran, a boutique firm in Manhattan: "Reunion Weekend never disappoints, as it is always great both to reconnect with old friends and to spend time with folks who share that bond formed in Morningside Heights some 30 years ago. The Thursday night off-campus outing was a ton of fun; I caught up with **Chris Della Pietra**, **Steve Metalios** and his wife, Joy Metalios SEAS'90 (née Kim), who explained that the reason Steve appeared in every single one of the photographs on the bar television slideshow was because he was the only one who answered the request to supply them.

"Also was great speaking with **Tajlei Levis**, a writer of books and lyrics for several musicals (see [glimpsesofthemoon.com](http://glimpsesofthemoon.com)); **Dan Futerman**, who described his research process for his *The Looming Tower* miniseries, which is based on the rivalry between the FBI and CIA prior to 9-11; **Julie Jacobs Menin**, who in her position with the NYC Office of the Corporation Counsel helped successfully challenge the Trump administration's proposed 2020 Census citizenship question (later stricken by the U.S. Supreme Court); and **Luis Penalver**, who is a corporate lawyer at Cahill Gordon & Reindel.

"The highlight for me on Thursday night was a post-event,

late-night diner hang with Adina Safer BC'89, who is a healthcare consultant in San Francisco, and my former roomies **David Streitfeld**, a computer programmer with Intuit, also visiting from the Bay Area, and John Libertino '88, who came in from Philadelphia to surprise everyone. Speaking of roomies, I was sorry that **Michael Schrag** and **Erik Price** could not make it, as Erik was celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary in Spain, and Mike and Dr. **Andrea Franchett** were otherwise enjoying life in the Bay Area as soon-to-be empty nesters, with their second and third kids heading off to college soon. Saturday night was equally fun, catching up with (among others) Dr. **David Kooby**, an oncologist at Emory University; **Laura Dower** (née McTaggart), a writer of children's books; **Alix Pustilnik**, a lawyer who most recently was general counsel of the Battery Park City Authority; and **Tom Kamber**, who has lived on a boat on the Hudson River and now runs a group that helps senior citizens get online and navigate technology."

**Michael Barry**, who works at Ironstate Development and lives in Short Hills, N.J., writes that he "enjoyed [Dean] Jim Valentini's address and his clear affinity for the Class of '89. I spent most of the night catching up with a few friends, interspaced by a few conversations with classmates I didn't really know that well. A fun night all around."

From **Stephanie Spencer**, who traveled from Washington state: "I really enjoyed my time in the city. I only get to NYC every five years, for reunion. I always enjoy balancing my time between reunion events and touring. I very much enjoyed visiting with old friends and acquaintances, and I also really enjoyed the Mini-Core Classes and lectures. I loved being on campus and staying in Wallach — it only took 30 years to land a room in Wallach. I never did have much luck in those housing lotteries."

For the last four years, Stephanie has been director of teaching and learning on Vashon Island, Wash., where she oversees professional development for staff, writes and manages grants, and works on policy and procedures. Stephanie's son is in the sixth grade, and last summer, "the two of us restored my grandfather's 100-year-old, cedar-strip canoe, and we've been enjoying it

on the sound around Vashon Island ever since."

**Raymond Yu** SEAS'90, who recently returned from an extended trip through Europe (Madrid, Barcelona, London and Paris), writes, "Two highlights of reunion: reunited with all of my Carman 8 suitmates (813) and ended Saturday night by going to Koronet and then drinking and playing darts at Mel's!"

**Wid Hall** SEAS'89, SEAS'91 has been to every one of our reunions and traveled from Germany to join us again. Wid writes, "My favorite part of the 30th reunion was that so many people attended. I think the 30th was at least as big as the 25th!"

**Alix Pustilnik**, who was mentioned by **Jeff Udell** earlier, writes that reunion "was especially meaningful to me. I felt a lot of gratitude and joy simply to sit on the Steps in the sun and reconnect with folks and see how much the Core still resonates in our conversations."

**Roger Rubin**, *Newsday* senior reporter, wrote that he was thrilled to connect with classmates and dear friends including **Greg Watt**, who came in from the Boston area; **Dave Winter**, an attorney in D.C.; and **Rusty Kosiorek** (I promise to write more about Rusty later). Of reunion, Roger writes, "Our class continues to astound me with the way its members are drawn to one another and cannot wait to be reunited. I expected that after the 25th, the passion and intensity of the 30th would in some way pale in comparison but this reunion was as much fun — possibly an even better time — than the last."



## Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct), or send news to the address at the top of your column.





Ellen Vaknine writes, "As at past reunions, not only did I enjoy spending time with friends and acquaintances from my time at Columbia, but I also ended up speaking at length with several classmates whom I hadn't previously known. It's great to learn where we've all 'landed' and the varied paths we've taken since Columbia."

Ellen lives on Long Island and recently sold her kosher catering business to focus on real estate investing/property management.

Andy Baehr BUS'96, who has attended our 20th, 25th and now 30th reunions, comes to reunion to reconnect and proudly reminisce about being part of the gang that carried the goal post after our famous streak-breaking football win over Princeton in 1988. Andy works at a finance startup, after 20-plus years in banking. He earned an M.B.A. from the Business School and lives in Tribeca with his wife and two children.

Carol Remy, who brought her 11-year-old daughter to reunion, loved revisiting "our old haunts — Koronet, The Hungarian Pastry Shop" and cherished "a slow walk through the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine," and showed her daughter Carman, where Carol lived freshman year. Carol writes, "My daughter remembered where the owl was immediately upon arrival. She found the owl when she was 6, at our 25th reunion, and remembered it at our 30th. Maybe we have a CC'30 in our midst!"

Daniel Halberstam, who came in from Ann Arbor, where he is associate dean for faculty and research at Michigan Law, the Eric Stein Professor of Law, and director, European Legal Studies Program, writes, "I was especially struck by how cozy the campus felt, given its vast intellectual expanse. It was a nice reminder of what a punch Columbia packs into that incredible campus."

Eliza Armstrong, a math teacher at North Star Academy in Newark, N.J., writes, "The highlight of reunion for me was getting time with Lisa Carnoy and Wanda Holland Greene, two of my dearest friends. I brought one of my daughters to the opening cocktails on Thursday night, and another to the events on Saturday. They also love Lisa and Wanda, and it is always special when my kids get to spend time with such

amazing, smart, interesting and funny women whom I'm lucky to have as friends. Another highlight was getting to spend a couple of hours with Shaquan Nelson SEAS'19, a former student of mine. He's a remarkable young man, and it is such a joy to see how he has grown since I taught him seventh-grade math. Columbia was lucky to have him, and I'm so proud of the person he is."

For those who haven't connected with our Class of '89 Facebook group, please do. Thom Chu, an estate attorney in New York, created a great post there that I recap here with his permission: "Great memories made over our 30th reunion weekend: classmates at the John Jay Associates celebration; seeing rare works on paper at Avery Library, including some by Frank Lloyd Wright; connecting with former work-study supervisee Ben Jealous '94, the youngest CEO to serve the NAACP; enjoying rainbow-hued Jell-O shots at the LGBTQ reception; Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs BC'04, Lambda Literary Award nominee, with her collage of the Rev. Pauli Murray, a queer civil rights activist and first African-American woman to be ordained in the Episcopal Church; four Hunter College H.S. Class of '85 and Columbia University Class of 1989 undergraduates, including Alix Pustilnik, Paul Radvany and Steven Chulik SEAS'89; and dancing under the stars by Low Library. Thanks to all for making a memory for a lifetime!"

Please send more updates and reunion memories for future columns!

I wish I could focus only on the joyful recap of our reunion, but days after we were mingling our group grew smaller, as we lost Tony Augello SEAS'89, who passed away in Southern California, where he was an engineer. Tony attended Purdue University for a master's and then UC Berkeley for a Ph.D. Tony was an avid Boston sports fan throughout his life. He lived in Newport Beach, Calif., and worked for Group Delta Consultants. Tony was a dear, sweet friend to many and will be greatly missed. Of Tony, Michael Behringer wrote, "You'll remember Tony for his happy smile, gentle soul and love for his friends, fraternity (Fiji), football team and Columbia. He was one of the best and will be missed."

## 1990

REUNION 2020  
JUNE 4-6

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Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

Rachel Cowan Jacobs  
younggrache@hotmail.com

What a fun summer I had seeing classmates on my travels. In June, work took me to San Francisco for a conference, where I had the great, annual pleasure of hanging out with Larry Momo '73 and Liz Pleshette '89. If there are any other Columbia alumni who do college counseling, please identify yourself!

I also spent some time visiting with Joel Tranter and his son, Ellison (7). The three of us hit the Alameda County Fair one of the days of my visit. Joel has a jockey friend who was racing that day, and he made quite an impression on Ellison. After we watched his first race, Brian Timoney kept us updated via text from Colorado on the jockey's six other races that day while we took in the rest of the fair.

My timing in the Bay Area coincided with Peter Neisuler's family's return from their State Department post in Amman, Jordan. They are spending two months road-tripping in the United States before reporting for duty at their next diplomatic post, in Tel Aviv. Peter is working in the political section on Iran, and Mariana is in the economic section covering energy and cyber issues. Luckily, we were all able to meet for dinner before I headed back east.

Back on the East Coast, Joy Metalios SEAS'90 (née Kim) is making a name for herself — on TV! She's the host of *The American Dream* TV show in Connecticut, a national real estate show that airs in about 40 cities across the country. Her local segments explore different neighborhoods, businesses and trends in the local market, showcasing lifestyle, community and real estate. You can catch all her shows on Apple TV, Roku and Amazon. Joy's first episode aired in early June and — as exciting as that was — her daughter's high school graduation was even more exciting. Zoe '23 lives in Carman and plays on the field hockey team. Her

brother, Max, is a junior at Penn and on its lacrosse team.

Stephen Winick took me on a stroll down memory lane when he sent me a link to a January story about Ken Hechtman. You should read it online ([bit.ly/2YysDGN](http://bit.ly/2YysDGN)) if you didn't catch the story on the news.

As for Steve, he's staying out of trouble. He shares, "I continue to be the editor in The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, our national folklore archive and study center. I write and edit our blog, *Folklife Today* ([blogs.loc.gov/folklife](http://blogs.loc.gov/folklife)). A couple of years ago I authored the fourth edition of our fieldwork manual, *Folklife & Fieldwork: A Layman's Introduction to Field Techniques*. Since then I've steered it through the process of being translated into Spanish and Chinese.

"This year I created a podcast for the Library of Congress, *Folklife Today*; you can listen online at [bit.ly/2KkySZD](http://bit.ly/2KkySZD). It tells stories about traditional culture and the people who keep it alive. For example, did you know that Ralph Ellison was a folklorist? He collected folklore for the WPA in the 1930s before becoming a celebrated novelist. In his manuscripts I found a story he collected in Harlem from someone named Leo Gurley, about a man nicknamed 'Sweet the Monkey.' Sweet the Monkey was an African-American man in South Carolina who was able to turn himself invisible. This story is clearly one part of the inspiration for Ellison's novel *Invisible Man*. That story is in the episode 'Hidden Folklorists.' We also have episodes about Agnes Vanderburg, a Salish elder in Montana who ran a school for traditional Indian ways; about our Civil Rights History Project, which collects narratives from leaders of the civil rights movement; about the complicated history of the spiritual 'Come by Here,' better known as 'Kumbaya; and about lots of other topics. I co-write, co-produce and co-host the podcast."

Professional news about Dean Sonderegger SEAS '90, SEAS'91: In May, he was appointed senior VP and general manager of Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory U.S., a company he joined in 2015 as head of Legal Markets & Innovation. In his new position, Dean continues to spearhead the company's focus on customer-focused innovation, with a





Joel Tranter '90 (left), Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90 and Peter Neisuler '90 enjoyed dinner together in June in the Bay Area.

strong emphasis on the rapid development of advanced digital products and services to enhance legal professionals' efficiencies and workflows. Very exciting times for Dean!

## 1991

**Margie Kim**  
margiekimkim@hotmail.com

Wishing the members of the Class of 1991 a happy and healthy fall! Please take a moment to share your news or a favorite Columbia College memory with the class by sending an email to [margiekimkim@hotmail.com](mailto:margiekimkim@hotmail.com).

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
[olivier.knox@gmail.com](mailto:olivier.knox@gmail.com)

Hello, Class of 1992!

**Jonathan Henick** wrote from his perch at the State Department (25-plus years) to say he "wrapped up a job as the deputy coordinator for the Global Engagement Center, where I helped stand up our efforts to counter Russian, Chinese and Iranian disinformation."

Jonathan is now a few months into his gig as deputy assistant secretary for South and Central Asia, with responsibility for Central Asia and press and public diplomacy.

"More importantly, of course, I am celebrating 19 years of marriage to my bride, Dominique Freire, and

amazed at how our kids, Oskar (17) and Carmen (13), are growing up into amazing people despite our lack of parenting skills," Jonathan shares, adding that he "would love to hear from old Columbia pals!"

**Andrew Vladeck** has a new album, *Visions and Revisions*. Keep track of his work on [andrewvladeck.com](http://andrewvladeck.com)! (It's how I found out about the album.)

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** SIPA'93 opted not to join the crowded field competing for the 2020 Democratic presidential nod. I thought I should flag that Eric has hired a new communications director, Dae Levine BC'92.

Please keep writing in! This column doesn't work unless you do!

## 1993

**Betsy Gomperz**  
[Betsy.Gomperz@gmail.com](mailto:Betsy.Gomperz@gmail.com)

Greetings, classmates. I only have one update this time, and it comes from **Jenny Hoffman**, who is returning to Morningside Heights! Jenny is a lecturer/adjunct professor at the School of Professional Studies in the Master of Science in Enterprise Risk Management program. She writes, "I am excited to be back on campus and would love to reconnect with any of you in New York. Aside from the Columbia gig, I am also senior VP at Global Risk Intelligence, a boutique risk advisory firm in Washington, D.C."

Hope you all had a great summer! Please take a moment to send in a note!

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
[lak6@columbia.edu](mailto:lak6@columbia.edu)

On the way uptown to Reunion Weekend (complicated by the 1 train not running all the way to 116th Street that weekend), I shared an amusing text exchange with **Mary Killackey** and **Marina Groothuis** (née Gurin), the crux of which revolved around wearing comfortable (but still cute) shoes. Because who do we need to impress anymore, anyway? That was, perhaps, apt branding for our 25th (25th!) reunion, a delightful weekend of comfortable reminis-

ing with people who pretty much looked exactly the same as they did a quarter-century ago. (Does that mean we're all aging gracefully, or did we just look like 40-somethings in college?) So, permit me a few random ramblings from reunion:

Catching up outside Ferris Booth Hall (is it even called that anymore?) with **Marina, Jen Cohen-Glasser** and **Brian Orefice**, talking about the sobering stats on admissions rates shared at an afternoon panel ... Chatting with our unrivaled social media class cheerleader **Penelope Kliegman** at the Wine Tasting ...

Rave reviews for the talks by **Derek Fairchild-Coppoletti**, **Camilla Jones** (née Jackson), **Rebecca Oppenheimer**, **Elliott Regenstein** and **Lavinell Savu** ...

Talking with **Milos Naumovic** and **Alex Rosenstein** about the perils of introducing *The Breakfast Club* to our kids ...

**Shawn Landres** insisting that all photos be taken in portrait mode — he's right, they're better! — and listening as he, **Matt Eddy** and **Ocean MacAdams** reminisced about high school ...

A trip to Koronet with **Kay Bailey** and **Danny Franklin**, which led to an existential crisis for me: The slices were SO BIG! I honestly did not remember that. Did I somehow never go to Koronet? Or did the intervening 25 years erase knowledge of these slices? ...

Sitting on Low Steps, hearing about the sports consulting business **Stephanie Geosits** has launched in Toronto, and then heading over with her, **Elliott** and **Kay** to Tom's for egg creams (another thing I never had in college; who knew no eggs were involved?) ...

Delightful conversations during the Friday night reception at the Manhattanville campus with **Sofia Dumery**, **Estelamari Rodriguez** and **Shelley Schneiderman-Ducker**, among many others ...

More delightful conversations throughout the Saturday class dinner at Faculty House with **Amit Bose**, **Ben Grant**, **Erik Groothuis**, **Alfredo Jollon**, **John Katz**, **Mason Kirby**, **Lillian Koo**, **Allegra Lowitt** (née Wechsler), **Negar Nabavi**, **Steve Ruddy** and **Andrew Russo**.

It was a special treat to catch up with some of our far-flung classmates, like **Jessica Craig**, who lives in Barcelona and is a literary agent.

Or **Josh Shannon**, who was about to head off to the Free University of Berlin for a year.

Throughout the weekend, there was ample opportunity to remember and relive. And yet, there still wasn't enough time. If I missed you there, or if I missed you in this column, my sincerest apologies.

But that's all the more reason to send in an update! Even more so if life events conspired, preventing you from making it to reunion at all. Because one thing is certain: Even 25 years later (or maybe because it's 25 years later!), the Class of 1994 likes to stay connected.

Until next time.

## 1995

**REUNION 2020**  
**JUNE 4-6**

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Development Contact  
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**Janet Lorin**  
[jrf10@columbia.edu](mailto:jrf10@columbia.edu)

Our class counts a star in the wine world, **Dan Petroski**, named wine-maker of the year in 2017 by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for his Massican label. **Jon Bonne '94** is an influential wine writer. And now, the prestigious James Beard Foundation has recognized the culinary talents of **Ann Kim**.

In May, Ann won the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Midwest for her Minneapolis restaurant, Young Joni. The competition included chefs in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. (Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana are in the "Great Lakes" grouping.)

Ann has two other restaurants: Pizzeria Lola opened in Minneapolis, and Hello Pizza followed. They were partly inspired by her pizza-eating days at Columbia; Koronet ranks as her top choice.

Ann arrived at Schapiro Hall our freshman year from Apple Valley, Minn., south of Minneapolis, drawn to the school for its proximity to theater.

She remembers seeing Broadway shows with groups of students and a professor and buying discounted tickets at TKTS. "For me, it was mostly soaking in whatever New





York had to offer," Ann said in a phone call this past summer. "I saw a lot of music, jazz and theater."

Ann's first Broadway show was *Les Misérables*, and she saw it again — about five more times.

She's still in touch with her crew of friends, many of whom have made the trip to Minnesota to sample her fare.

Young Joni, where pizza is a staple and a wood-fired grill offers other dishes that look delicious on its website, was named best new restaurant in 2017 by several publications, including *Esquire*.

Ann and her husband live with their dog, Lola, for whom she named her first restaurant.

I hope to see Ann and many of you at reunion. If you are interested in helping to plan it, please get in touch.

## 1996

Ana S. Salper  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Dear classmates, where, oh where, did you all go? I am disappointed to say that I have no notes this time around. Weren't there around 800 of us in the class? There have to be at least some of you who have some news to share! Please send in notes so that our column is not devoid of news.

I wish you all the best for the fall and look forward to hearing from you! I leave you with this:

"In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## 1997

Kerensa Harrell  
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope you all enjoyed a fun-filled summer!

Our first update comes from **Natasha Goldberg** (née Bartolf). We met during our final semester at the College, when by chance we took the same class in Hamilton Hall. It was a seminar on the writings of the famous 19th-century Russian writer Nikolai Gogol, held in a cozy classroom with one long table. This seminar, comprising around half a dozen students, was led by one of the world's preeminent Gogol scholars,

Professor Robert Maguire SIPA'53, GSAS'60. Natasha recalls that I always sat to her left, by a window that overlooked College Walk, and she fondly reminisces: "It was a memorable class. Reading Gogol's hilarious play *The Inspector General* might have been the apotheosis of my Columbia experience. It was like we were members of an esoteric club. I remember the feeling of camaraderie in the room, 25 years out."

Well put, Natasha — I thoroughly concur with that sentiment!

Natasha also sent the following update: "For the past 15 years, I have been the middle school librarian at The Chapin School, a wonderful gig that allows me time in July and August to pursue drawing at The Art Students League of New York, and a pleasantly geeky/intellectual life year-round."

"I am married to Josh Goldberg BUS'97, with whom I probably rubbed elbows at some point at the Uris Caf (which we agree offered the superior sandwiches on campus). It took us until 2009 to actually grab lunch, though. We now share a home on Pierrepont Street in Brooklyn Heights, with our daughter, Mila (7), who, like her parents, loves to go to a lot of shows (most recently, The Losers Lounge tribute to ABBA at Joe's Pub!)."

"My favorite memories of Columbia involve the pecan pie at John Jay, discovering a ton of new music, books and movies (remember when *Pulp Fiction* came out?), and discovering the East Village, back when there wasn't a bank on every corner."

"In terms of my CC'97 network, I appreciate keeping in touch with **Heidi Kirk** (whom I visited in Shanghai in '05, and who is presently Berlin's coolest tour guide), and with **Avidah Moussavian** and **Elizabeth Chiles** (who, post-McBain, are kicking butt in the worlds of immigration advocacy and the visual arts, respectively)."

"For those of you with middle-school-aged kids in need of book recommendations, or who just want to reconnect, you can find me at @finelibrarian. Hope everyone's been reasonably happy, healthy and well-behaved!"

**Rebekah Gee** PH'98 shares that she is still the secretary of health for the state of Louisiana. Recently she was named one of *Modern Healthcare Magazine's* "Ten Women To Watch"

for 2019. Rebekah enjoys seeing **Athena Bendo Ole** every Jazz Fest. Her twins, Elizabeth and Eva, are 6.

**Carl Pavel** is practicing pulmonary and critical care medicine in the Chicago suburbs. In their spare time, he and his wife, Sarah, and his four children enjoy trying new playgrounds, exploring the state parks system and driving into the city.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, as I wrap up this column in mid-July, I've been thinking about how much fun I've been having this summer with my 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Amara. A few months ago we moved from our house, which at 4,000 sq. ft. was far too large for just the two of us. We remain in the Orlando area, but have downsized to an apartment in a brand-new building. Each

train and began strolling through the lobby of the Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, heading toward our car, we noticed the charming sounds of a live, vintage-style jazz orchestra, comprising mostly elderly musicians, playing wonderful jazz standards from many decades ago in the hotel lobby. Hearing the music made me really miss living in New York City, when in my dancing days I frequented the famed Rainbow Room (late 1990s/early 2000s) with my friends and we would spend hours on the magical revolving floor of the 65th floor of Rockefeller Plaza while dancing the foxtrot and swinging to a live jazz orchestra. As those memories began flooding my mind, Amara excitedly turned to me and exclaimed, "Mama, let's dance!"

### Core Haiku



Core Curriculum.  
Protested. Got arrested.  
Son reads Plato now.

— Red Delicious '97

morning we are greeted by a dozen gigantic and colorful hot air balloons that magically float down from the sky and land right before our eyes in the field across from us. Amara has been helping me select the new furniture, fixtures and furnishings for our home (she loves letting me know what she wants!). I am trying to brush up on my feng shui knowledge, with the goal of perfecting a harmonious arrangement of the décor.

As usual, it was a very hot summer here in Florida, and we cooled off in the evenings at our clubhouse's saltwater swimming pool, which is walking distance from our apartment. During the day we met up with Amara's little friends for fun activities; I've also been homeschooling her in reading, writing and geography. She's amazingly good at geography, for only being two and a half — she can already locate and identify all the states on her puzzle map of the United States, as well as find a bunch of countries on her world globe, which she loves to spin.

Recently we were heading home from having spent a few hours at the Magic Kingdom, where we have annual passes. As we exited the

and insisted that we start dancing together, right then and there. Ah, luckily the apple does not fall far from the tree!

As I sign off now, let me end with a song that my daughter and I like to dance to and sing along with at home. It's the waltz song from the Minniemore episode of a TV series called *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse*. The lyrics are

"Come on, let's dance together!  
We'll be best friends forever!  
Oh, who else could it be ...  
But you and me!"

Blessings to all, and please do send me your updates. Keep in mind that they needn't be just about the usual topics like career/marriage/birth announcements — they can be on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings and/or your flowery reminiscences. Or simply tell us about some delightful local event that you attended or a family vacation that you went on. If nothing else, you can always write us just to say hello! It would



be splendid to hear from as many of our classmates as possible. I look forward to hearing from you. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

## 1998

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Happy fall, CC'98! Hope you all had a wonderful summer. Please take a moment to send a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories, anything you want to share. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 1999

**Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson**  
adieliz@gmail.com  
jennajohnson@gmail.com

Dear classmates, on a gorgeous Saturday night in June we made the journey back to those beloved old Steps for a bit of catch-up and reunion. It's been 20 YEARS. Some folks are still spry enough to dance under the stars (though it is, more than ever, ill-advised to wear heels on College Walk). Among those spotted in attendance: **Laurent Vasilescu, Martin Mraz, Brad Neuberg, Chris Schettino, Sameer Shamsi, Andrew Chen, Laura Colarusso, Sahil Godiwala, Wendy Liu, Stephen McGrath, Andrew Park, Anna Remet, Dominique Sasson, Stacy Rotner, Adam Spiewak, Nina Tannenbaum, Sally Woo, Caitlin Schrein, David Schach SEAS'99 and Jason Saretsky.** Everyone was in good spirits, though many were missed. We toasted every one of you and hope you'll make the trek for the 25th.

In non-reunion news, **Patrick Radden Keefe** has another book to add to his "also by" page. *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*, was published by in February and has received raves from a range of readers and reviews — from Gillian Flynn to Colum McCann to the *Wall Street Journal* to *Entertainment Weekly* to *The New York Times*. [Editor's note: See "Columbia Forum," Spring 2019.]

At reunion, we caught up with **Brad Neuberg**, who started a

short research fellowship at the NASA Frontier Development Lab, a research accelerator that brings together machine learning specialists and space scientists. He is on a team as the machine learning specialist applying deep learning to heliophysics, or the study of our sun. He lives in San Francisco in the Mission District with his wife, Abby, and their daughter, Cameron (1 and a half).

We also chatted with **Laura Colarusso**, who has been the digital managing editor at WGBH News for two and a half years. She and her husband, **Jason Saretsky**, have two children, Olivia and Owen.

Also, now seems a perfect time to mention that our esteemed correspondent, **Adrienne Carter**, is going to be making a big move. As of this fall, she'll head up the Asia desk for *The New York Times*, and so she'll be moving to Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, we've been filing these reports for about four years, so it's about time we graduate and pass the duties to some fresh-eyed classmate. Our goal was to reach out to all of you listed in the current class' contacts spreadsheet, and we're very nearly there. So we've earned our graduation, yes? If you're interested in becoming the class correspondent, send a note to us at the email addresses at the top of this column, or to CCT's Class Notes editor, Annie Sirju, at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

## 2000

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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**Prisca Bae**  
[pb134@columbia.edu](mailto:pb134@columbia.edu)

**Nick Dierman** has lived in Los Angeles for 16 years, practicing as an in-house attorney. He recently left his role as senior corporate counsel at Westfield, the shopping center development company, to join Maryland-based Federal Realty Investment Trust as its chief West Coast counsel, based in El Segundo, Calif. Nick's partner, James, and their blended family of three dogs live in Miracle Mile. Nick is in touch with **Lauren DeMille, Jennifer Glaser,**

**Stephen Del Percio SEAS'00** and **Laura Hertzfeld BC'01.**

Also in L.A. is our resident sock mogul **Erica Easley**, the founder and owner of Gumball Poodle, a sock company famous for its knee-high Obama socks and "gangsta" socks worn by Beyoncé in a music video. Her socks are sold everywhere — check her out at [gumballpoodle.com](http://gumballpoodle.com) and @gumballpoodle on Instagram!

If there are any classmates who have started their own companies, please let me know so we can support your entrepreneurial ventures!

I'm excited to report that I joined the board of The Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center, a Columbia-based nonprofit whose mission is to increase high school graduation rates and college enrollment for low-income and first-generation college-bound students in Harlem and Washington Heights. Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, our former dean of students, helped found DDC in 1965, and it has since helped more than 15,000 students! Each year, 90 percent of DDC high school seniors graduate on time and attend college.

Please consider supporting DDC. A gift to DDC will count as your annual gift to Columbia. You can learn more (and make a contribution) at [ddc.college.columbia.edu](http://ddc.college.columbia.edu).

Thanks, and look forward to hearing from you!

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
[jrg53@columbia.edu](mailto:jrg53@columbia.edu)

Hello, CC'01 — hope you all had an excellent summer! Please take a minute to share your news. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 2002

**Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
[soniahird@gmail.com](mailto:soniahird@gmail.com)

Hope everyone enjoyed the summer!

**Albert Lee SEAS'02** was selected as a 2019 NextGen institutional investor by *Chief Investment Officer* magazine (formerly its "40 Under 40" list).

New book alert! *Reclaiming Her Time*, is a deep dive into the life, wisdom, wit and legacy of American icon Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), and is

authored by **Helena Andrews-Dyer** and the incomparable **R. Eric Thomas.**

**Kimberly Blumenthal** is an allergy specialist and researcher at Mass General in Boston and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her research is on drug allergies, and how over-claiming a penicillin allergy is contributing to antibiotic resistance. Recently, *The New York Times*, *The New York Post* and *The Wall Street Journal* did articles covering her research. Kimberly's husband is a cardiologist and they live in Wellesley, Mass., with their boys, Jonah (7), Eli (4) and Ari (2).

**Ksusha McCormick** (née Boutov) has lived in Harlem for six years and works for an investment firm specializing in distressed and niche credit. With Sean she has two daughters, 4 and a half and 1 and a half. "Our eldest is starting kindergarten this fall at P.S. 145, a Russian dual-language elementary school on the Upper West Side," Ksusha writes. She never imagined her kids could get a Russian language education in a public school, "but living in New York is a gift that keeps on giving!"

In engagement news, congratulations to **Andres Zuleta**, who proposed to Christina Soto in San Diego with a surprise all-female mariachi band.

**Genevieve Thornton** lives in the West Village with her 3-and-a-half-year-old identical twins (Class of 2038?) and continues to be involved with the Columbia College Alumni Association. She encourages everyone to donate to Columbia and to mentor a current CC student ([college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring/](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring/))!



**Submit  
Your  
Photo**



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





## 2003

Michael Novielli  
mjin29@columbia.edu

Our classmates continue to have an impact on a variety of industries, including higher education and entertainment. We are also excited to learn about additions to a number of classmate families. Please remember that I'm happy to include an update about anything that's new in your lives — it need not necessarily be a new job or baby; you can share about a new volunteer gig, a recent trip you took or even restaurant/bar recommendations. I hope to hear from you soon!

**Adam Libove** writes, "I'm delighted to report that on April 28 at 7:09 a.m. my wife, Barbara, gave birth to our daughter, Maya Sasha, who weighed in at 7 lbs., 6 oz., and was 19 inches long. Mom, baby and brother Aaron are doing great!"

**Oscar Chow** writes, "My wife and I welcomed twin boys, Axel and Elliott, on September 21, 2018. Our daughter, Kiva (3), now loves her brothers very much."

**Andrea Paul** (née Herbst) writes, "My husband, **Jacques Paul SEAS'03**, and I live in Somerville, Mass., and I am in-house corporate and securities counsel at Akebia Therapeutics in Cambridge. We have two young daughters who just started at a French-English bilingual school. We would love to reconnect with classmates who come through the Boston area!"

**Beth Mickle** writes, "I'm the production designer on a (pretty big!) movie for Warner Bros./DC Comics, *The Suicide Squad* — a reboot of the comic book movie franchise. James Gunn is our director. And in November, I have another movie coming out that I production designed last year, *Motherless Brooklyn*. It was written and directed by Edward Norton, who is also the lead actor in the film. It's based on the Jonathan Lethem novel by the same name."

**Amy Phillips** writes, "I recently celebrated four years of marriage to my husband, Elia Einhorn. Our daughter, Alana Conwy Ann Phillips (we call her Conwy), is 2. We live in Brooklyn."

"August 1 marked my 14-year anniversary at the music website Pitchfork. Earlier this year, I was

promoted to managing editor. When I started in 2005, I was one of five employees in a small office in Chicago. Today, Pitchfork is part of Condé Nast and has a staff of 50. I have an office in One World Trade Center, overlooking the Statue of Liberty."

**Stacey-Ann Johnson** writes, "My husband, Yves Noel, and I were blessed with a little girl, Maya-Simone Noel, in December 2018. We got married in October 2017. Also, **Gladys Chang** got married in May of this year to Andrew Ho. The wedding was officiated by **Simone Sebastian** and attended by **Diane Webber SEAS'03**."

**Paul Morton** writes, "I received a Ph.D. in cinema studies from the University of Washington last year. I will soon be a lecturer at the University of Washington. I frequently publish my work at the *Los Angeles Review of Books*."

**Mark J. Mann** is an assistant professor in the urology department at Thomas Jefferson University.

**Katie Benvenuto BUS'12** continues to serve alma mater as the senior executive director for development for Columbia College, Arts & Sciences and Athletics.

## 2004

Jaydip Mahida  
jmahida@gmail.com

I hope this issue finds everyone well and that those of you who were able to attend Reunion Weekend 2019 had a great time. It was fun catching up with so many old friends — and I think we will all fondly remember **Steph Lung's** speech for many, many years to come.

**Christine Luu** writes, "Recently moved to Agoura Hills, Calif., with my wife, Lindsay, and started a job at DC Entertainment (home of DC Comics and a subsidiary of Warner Bros.) in Burbank as a director of business affairs. I can't believe it's been 15 years since we graduated. Hope to catch up sometime. Sending everyone good wishes."

**Rachel Neugarten** writes, "After seven years living and working in Washington, D.C., I am moving to Ithaca, N.Y., to begin a Ph.D. program in the natural resources department at Cornell University. I welcome any CC alums to visit; let's hike some gorges!"

Please send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but also feel free to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email address at the top of the column or through the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2005

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6  
Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu  
Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

Columbia College Today  
cct@columbia.edu

Happy fall, CC'05. The 15-year reunion will be here in June, so mark your calendars now!

**Brendon-Jeremi Jobs** writes, "I have had so many opportunities to really drive my inclusion work to some unexpected spaces since attending Harvard's Graduate School of Education's Race Equity & Leadership workshop in the spring. I sat for two podcast interviews related to the work of equity, inclusion and social justice in schools. The themes I've been thinking about are 'Practicing Habits for Engaging the Racial Elephant' and 'Storytelling as Empowerment in Schools.' The first — with Germantown Radio's 'The (Not So) Hidden Agenda' — focused on storytelling as empowerment in schools. The second — on Third Space with Jen Cort — offered space for me to reflect on the role of the diversity director in schools. This past summer I attended the Teachers College Reimagining Education Conference before heading to San Diego with my partner to visit my littlest sister, who is training in the Navy."

From **John Kluge**: "In June, I formally launched the Refugee Investment Network, the first impact investing and blended finance collaborative dedicated to durable solutions to forced migration. This is truly a global, all-hands-on-deck effort, so I'd love to extend

an invitation to the Columbia community to engage with us! Learn more at [refugeeinvestments.org](http://refugeeinvestments.org)."

From **Tanya Franklin**: "I'm running for school board for Los Angeles Unified. Los Angeles Unified School District is the second-largest school district in the country, and it's where I grew up, where I taught for five years with Teach For America after graduation and where I've been working since 2011 with the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, aiming to transforming some of the highest-need schools in the district."

Please take a moment to share your news. We would love to hear from you!

## 2006

Michelle Oh Sing  
mo2057@columbia.edu

Wishing the members of the Class of 2006 a happy and healthy fall. Please take a moment to share your news with the class by sending an email to [mo2057@columbia.edu](mailto:mo2057@columbia.edu).

## 2007

David D. Chait  
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your exciting news. Now for exciting updates from our classmates!

**Rebecca Boti** (née Liu) shares, "With heavy heart we left our perfect Brooklyn apartment and made the great migration to the suburbs of Westchester this year. As we settle into our new existence and plug into the local network, we would be excited to connect with fellow alums and families here. Please reach out!"

**David Greenhouse** writes, "My wife, Emily, and I are happy to report the birth of our daughter, Elleda Louise, on May 29 in Berlin."

**Philippa Warodell** writes, "We continue to live happily in Stockholm, and I am working for H&M's new advanced analytics and AI function. Hoping to get to New York during my maternity leave, but traveling with two children under 3 is looking daunting..."

**Josie Raymond JRN'08** (née Swindler) shares "I finished my first session as a Kentucky State





FRANK BAEZ

Eric Bondarsky '07 (left), Ezra Dweck '97 (center) and Bashar Mourad in December at an event hosted by NYU Langone Orthopedic Pulmonary Associates.

Representative both more frustrated and more determined than ever. The majority passed unconstitutional bills that will be struck down in court and did little to improve the daily life of the average Kentuckian. I continue to build a coalition supporting pre-K for all and full-day kindergarten, the single most important investments we can make for stronger communities."

## 2008

*Columbia College Today*  
cct@columbia.edu

Happy fall, CC'08!

Congratulations to **Vedia Eidelman** (née Biton) and **Vlad Eidelman** SEAS'08, who welcomed a baby boy in August 2018!

Also congratulations to **Jia Guo** BUS'15, who shares, "My husband, Wei Ke SEAS'03, BUS'09, and I are very excited to announce the arrival of our baby boy, Theo, born on June 27 at over 7 lbs. and 20 inches long. He is happy, healthy and eagerly exploring the world."

**Alex Gartenfeld** is artistic director at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami. He recently organized major exhibitions and catalogues for Ettore Sottsass and Paulo Nazareth. Forthcoming are first museum surveys for Sterling Ruby and Allan McCollum. Alex has edited 20 catalogues during the past two years, added 100 works to the museum's collection and led a successful campaign for ICA Miami's launch.

Great work, Alex!

Thanks to all who wrote! Please take a moment to share your news in an upcoming issue by writing to the email address at the top of the column.

## 2009

**Chantee Dempsey**  
chantee.dempsey@gmail.com

**David Derish** (who earned an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2015) is the recipient of a 2019–20 award from the inaugural grant program of The Cooper Union to assist students in establishing an independent, environmentally responsible studio art practice. He is the studio manager for the Painting Department.

**Michael Emerson** and **Adina Bitton** BC'08 are moving to Jerusalem, Israel, with their daughters, Maayan, Lital and Keren. Michael spent three years working for The Wexner Foundation as director of the Wexner Service Corps, a teen service-learning fellowship in Columbus, Ohio. Look them up next time you're in Israel and schedule a coffee date to catch up.

**Asleigh Aviles** earned a master's in human development and family science from the University of Texas at Austin in her doctoral program this past spring.

**Dan Amrhein** is moving with his wife, Melissa, and infant daughter from Seattle to Boulder in October. Dan spent the last decade (!) researching the physics of the oceans and climate, which included a couple of swashbuckling sea voyages but mostly involved using climate models to study Earth's geologic past. In Boulder he will work at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He is looking forward to hiking the Rockies, building a pizza oven and somehow morphing into a ripped triathlete, like everyone else in that town.

**Ralph DeBernardo** and **Kaitlyn Busler** DeBernardo '10 welcomed Charlotte Mia into the world on April 14. Ralph shares, "Charlotte came in at a solid 8 lbs. and almost 21 inches long, solidifying her as a future Columbia Lion volleyball player — Class of 2042! We celebrated her baptism along with godfather **Gene Kaskiw** on July 14 at home in New Jersey. We had multiple CC grads in attendance, including **Gary Mesko** and **Megan Donovan** '10."

Please send any life updates to be included in an upcoming issue!

## 2010

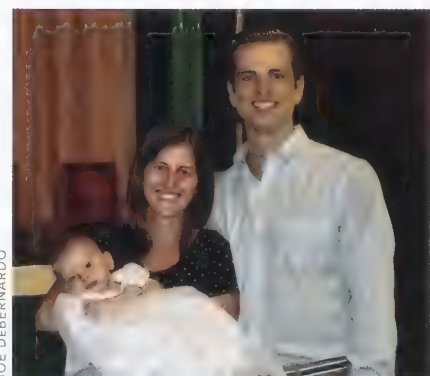
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JUNE 4–6

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Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Julia Feldberg Klein**  
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

**Jordan Fraade** and **Emma Curran** Hulse '09 were married on June 2 in Brown County, Ind., near Emma's



JOE DEBERNARDO

Kaitlyn DeBernardo (née Busler) '10 and Ralph DeBernardo '09 at their daughter's July 14 baptism at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Washington Township, N.J.

hometown of Indianapolis. The couple met after college through a mutual friend from Columbia, and worked backward to figure out they'd attended all the same dinner parties at Potluck House. Alumni in attendance included **Rahel Aima**, **Becky Davies**, **Megan Eardley**, **Kabita Parajuli**, **Kate Redburn**, **Laura Seidman**, **Salman Somjee**, **Jonathan Battat** SEAS'09, **John Klopfer** '09, **Jardine Wall** '09 and **Dave Plotz** '06.

**Laura Weldon** writes, "I still have one more year to go to finish my medical degree, but I received an M.S. in integrative mental health this past June! I am a neurodiversity advocate and am researching autism."

**Kaitlyn DeBernardo** and **Ralph DeBernardo** '09 welcomed their first child, Charlotte Mia, on April 14, weighing 8 lbs. and measuring 20.75 inches long. On July 14, she was baptized in New Jersey, where **Gene Kaskiw** '09 was named her godfather. Charlotte is already measuring off the charts and her parents are hoping she will be a Columbia athlete like they were!

**Morgan Parker's** debut young adult novel, *Who Put This Song On?*, will be published in September. Her third collection of poetry, *Magical Negro*, was released earlier this year.

In June, **Michael Bossetta** completed a Ph.D. in the political science department at the University of Copenhagen. His research examines social media's impact on politics and elections. Michael will continue his research during a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Lund University in Sweden, where he is

## Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!  
What's a fun way to note it?  
Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — you need to tell us in haiku. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct\_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.





leading the project "Self-Effects on Social Media and Political Polarization." Using data from the 2019 European elections, the project investigates whether posting about politics on social media encourages the polarization of public opinion. The project was awarded a Seal of Excellence from the European Commission and is funded by Sweden's Innovation Agency. You can find out more about Michael's research by checking out his podcast, *Social Media and Politics*.

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell**  
nurielm@gmail.com  
sean.udell@gmail.com

Hey, 2011. It's with a heavy heart that we report the loss of **Trevis Glenn Welcome-Joyner**. Trevis, ever the loving force, was a remarkable classmate. The void created by his death this past May will be felt in our community for a lifetime. We remember Trevis by dedicating this column to his memory. The following (from which excerpts were pulled) was originally published on the website for the Cremation Society of Georgia. The excerpts have been reprinted with its permission.

"Trevis Glenn Welcome-Joyner had the kind of warmth of personality that inspired and changed the people around him, from small children to people decades older. 'He is magnetic,' his mother, Tracie Joyner,

said. 'People are just drawn to him. He is an extraordinary human being.'

"Trevis, 30, passed away Thursday, May 9, 2019, at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., after years of living his life joyfully and valiantly in the face of a terrible cancer and in defiance of its attempt to define him.

"If you knew Trev, I know you loved him,' his wife, Maxine Welcome-Joyner, wrote. 'My heart is breaking for all the people who will be saddened by the passing of him. Let grief take you where you need to go, but also be joyous. He was joyous and laughing to the very end, and I know he would want everyone else to be.'

"Trevis was not only a son, husband, and brother, but also a teacher, mentor and friend. He was a graduate of Lithia Springs H.S. in Douglas County, Ga., and Columbia University in New York, where he double majored in computer science and psychology. He also attended Culver Academy in Culver, Indiana, which introduced him to the sport of fencing. He later went on to fence in college and was a member of the Columbia Fencing Team when they won the Ivy League Championship in 2008.

"Trevis was a dedicated teacher and most recently worked as a second-grade intervention specialist at KIPP Strive Primary School, a public charter school in Atlanta's Westside neighborhood. He began his career in education at KIPP AMP Elementary School in Brooklyn, New York, where he was a Founding Kindergarten Teacher, followed by a Founding First Grade

Teacher and then a Founding Science Teacher for grades K-2. He later worked as a Second Grade Teacher at KIPP Ignite Academy in South Los Angeles after moving to California. Throughout his teaching career, Trevis made a point of reaching out to the students who needed him most. The mother of one of his students commented, 'Trevis meant the world to me and mine. He is forever in our hearts. Know that his time here in New York was well spent impacting so many young minds. He is forever a part of our family.' Another parent wrote, 'Trevis was my daughter's kindergarten teacher in 2013 at KIPP in NYC. She loved him and had a special bond with him. He was so good to her. When she heard the news he had passed, she was sad and calmly said, 'He taught me how to read. I am going to miss him. He just got me.' She was a shy student and he definitely had an impact on her.' ...

"Throughout his life, Trevis never lost his thirst for learning. He was a deep thinker with an intellectual curiosity that drew people in and encouraged dialog. When others spoke, Trevis let them know he was listening. ...

"It was hard for anyone to meet him and not love him right away,' wrote Helen Werbe, one of Trevis's close friends from college. 'In fact, I have so many friends and family he met over the years on who he made such positive impressions that they, even if they had only met him once, would continue to ask how he was doing. To me, this was incredible. No one else would be remembered like that.' ...

"Trevis faced a devastating diagnosis in the fall of 2015, but rather than allowing it to shatter him, he chose to embrace a new phase of life. He moved to Los Angeles with Maxine, he traveled, read, ate and loved. When he and Maxine moved home to Atlanta, he drove cross country with his younger brother, Hayden. To the delight of friends and family, he and Maxine were married in December 2018 in a ceremony that the two of them created. Trevis's vows to Maxine were largely improvised. When he spoke from his heart, Maxine's tears were joined by those in attendance, many of whom traveled across the country to witness this special union.

"In an online remembrance, Claire Turner, another college friend



Columbia varsity soccer teammates Nick Faber '12, Zach Glubiak '12, Will Young '13, Nick Scott '13, Ronnie Shaban SEAS'12, Jesse Vella SEAS'12, Francois Anderson '12, Henning Sauerbier '14 and Michael Mazzullo '12 (along with some friends) met up to play in New York City.

and former co-worker, described Trevis as 'the rock of our friend group' whose boundless love and enthusiasm for food, music, and children left a deep impression on all who knew him. 'Eight years was not enough time to have known you, my friend. We had a lot more living to do,' she wrote. 'In his honor, talk to a stranger, try a new food, laugh with your children, dance. Live life to the fullest, because we know that's what he would be doing.'

"After his passing, Tracie received this message from someone she had never met, 'You don't know me, but I recently heard the news about Trevis. What I will always remember about him is his joy - his joy in people, his joy in food, music, dance, everything. Trevis inspired everyone he met to be a better person, and also to live life with joy. He inspires me! I will live my life as joyfully as I can, because that's what Trevis would do!'"

## 2012

**Sarah Chai**  
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Hey, all! Hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to fall!

A core group of some Columbia varsity men's soccer teammates play in New York every Saturday, but on one summer weekend some additional guys were in town for a wedding.

**Nick Faber, Zach Glubiak, Will Young '13, Nick Scott '13, Ronnie**



A group of CC'11 classmates at graduation (left to right): Dave Feig, Jonathan Tanners, Dhruv Vasishtha, Louis Fisher, Trevis Welcome-Joyner, Javed Basu-Kesselman, Ben Berger, Mujib Mashal and Sam Frank.



# Celebrations

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform. In this issue, we also highlight three engagements of couples in which both alumni are College grads. Congratulations!



SWEETWATER PORTRAITS

JINNY K PHOTOGRAPHY



MICHELLE VARELA OF OCEANLAB STUDIOS



1. James Glynn '15 and Lisa Harshman '15 recently got engaged.

2. Jeanine Alvarez '14 and Mycheal Crafton SEAS'14 got engaged in June at the American Museum of Natural History. In attendance to celebrate were friends Nelson Castaño '14, Cathi Choi '13, Johnny Fells III SEAS'16, Akinyele Jordan '15 and Jachele Vélez '11.

3. On August 25, 2018, Alisa Parker '07 (née Gross) married Hal Parker in Philadelphia. Top row, left to right: Chris Danzig GS'05, Sari Linson Danzig SEAS'06, Ellie Bernick BC'11, Carey Gibbons '03, Max Talbot-Minkin '07, Risa Chubinsky '07, Susan Millenky '07, Roger Stefin '75 LAW'79, Katie Kluger Kenigsberg BC'07, Kwame Spearman '06 and Laura Lariu Roberts '06. Bottom row, left to right: Ruth Gross (Alisa's niece), the bride, Professor Emeritus Jonathan Gross, Rena Gross '02 and Andrew Napier LAW'13.

4. Taylor Willis (née Troutt) '18 married Titus Willis '18 in Gadsden, Ala., on August 11, 2018. Left to right: Jesse Thorson '18, Saúl De La O Villa SEAS'18, the groom, the bride, Rebecca Ohaeri '18 and Rachel Lipski BC'18.

5. Many CC alumni gathered at the August 2018 wedding of Jenieve Guevarra-Fernández '12 and Amín Guevarra-Fernández '11 in Elizabeth, N.J. First row, left to right: Christina Ortiz '12, Alejandro Ortiz SEAS'15, Melanie Ortiz, Ximena Fonseca BC'15, Jasmine Ruiz BC'15, Christina Gee BC'14, the bride, the groom, Steven Martinez '11, Robert Taronji, Eric Kay Kyere '12 and Richard Parraga SEAS'14. Second row, left to right: Christian Morales SEAS'14, Ernesto Jacobs SEAS'13, Johanna Miele '12, Julian Vigil SEAS'17, Andrew Padilla, Doric Sam and Lucelys Popoter BC'14. Third row, left to right: Carolina Stairs GSAS'13, Emmanuel Arnaud '13, Juan Carlos Garcia SEAS'12, Brian Velez SEAS'14, Gilbert Nunez '13, Elizabeth Angeles '13, Michael Barrientos SEAS '12 and Michael Elias SEAS'15. Forth row, left to right: Jibreel Adekiigbe SEAS'14, Jason Tejada '13 and Jose Escano.

6. Andrew Ren '15 and Sida Li '15 got engaged on April 26.



VICTOR N.





Shaban SEAS'12, Jesse Vella SEAS'12, Francois Anderson, Henning Sauerbier '14 and Michael Mazzullo were able to catch up over the game!

I hope to hear from the rest of you soon. You can submit updates by writing to me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Until next time!

## 2013

Tala Akhavan  
talaakhavan@gmail.com

It is with a heavy heart that we dedicate this quarter's Class of 2013 column to the memory of **Brian DeVeau**, who sadly passed away on June 23, 2019.

Brian was a beloved member of the class and a devoted player on the varsity football team. He majored in economics and, in football, he played defensive back and offensive slot back. Many classmates remember Brian's signature bright smile lighting up our campus. He was an investment analyst with Merrill Lynch before becoming an associate investment banker with Mizuho Bank. Most recently, Brian was the managing director of mergers and acquisitions at Taylored Services, a portfolio company of Saybrook Corporate Opportunity Funds, while pursuing an M.B.A.

In memory of Brian, we've collected thoughts, memories and short stories about him from members of the Class of 2013. He will be deeply

missed and remembered by the Columbia community.

**Robert Sigmon:** "I'm confident there has never been anyone quite like Brian DeVeau. I was fortunate enough to befriend Brian as an incoming freshman at Columbia when he was still entrenched in his phase of oversized sweatpants, buzz cuts and carrying around a gallon of water everywhere he went. It didn't take long for him to become one of the most beloved individuals in the program and one of my closest friends. He didn't need many words (and even fewer over text messages) to make his mark on those he cared about. He led by example on and off the field by showing an unbreakable commitment to his teammates, friends and family. He was the ultimate teammate and a brother to many on the team, including me. Through college and two years of rooming together afterward, he taught me the value and importance of being authentic. Brian was never afraid to be himself, and that's what made people gravitate toward him. You will always be missed and loved, Bri."

**Sean Brackett:** "Brian was a great friend, teammate, roommate and even better person. We 'grew up' together, from 17/18-year-old public school freshmen with no idea about our futures, to Ivy League graduates. Literally every time I saw Brian, he brought a smile to my face. Whether it was his choice of style/fashion (or lack thereof as an underclassman!) or his unique phrases and sayings that he was so known for, he was always in good spirits and showing his positive light to others. He was a fierce competitor in everything he did; football, working out, in the classroom. Brian was always going to give his absolute best. I will miss his laugh, his positive energy and just talking to my boy. I'm blessed to have made so many great, crazy, hilarious, awesome memories with him. He will always live on through these memories. Rest easy, my brother. I love you. Roar, Lion, Roar forever."

**Andrew Weiss:** "Because we both played football, Brian was one of the first people I met at Columbia. We grew up about 15 minutes away from each other in New Jersey and even played football against each other when we were younger. When you spend nearly every day with someone for four years, you cannot help but acquire countless memories and



Left to right, Shad Sommers '13, Seyi Adebayo '14, Cameron Ross '13, Ryan Murphy '13, Xander Frantz SEAS'13 and Brian DeVeau '13.

stories, and I probably have enough anecdotes to fill the magazine. I will summarize by saying that I will always remember Brian as three things: a great teammate, a special person and an incredible friend.

"Brian was a tremendous teammate. He loved football, always put the team first, and displayed a tireless work ethic. In the locker room, he was revered and loved by all of his teammates. He even saved my butt (and his!) one day when we both walked to the bus together for practice, only to realize that there was no bus and that none of our teammates were standing at 116th and Broadway. While I was already running through the many different horrible scenarios of how we would be penalized for being late, Brian hailed a cab for us and told the cab driver we were late to practice. Incredibly, we somehow made it to Baker on time to quickly get dressed along with our teammates, many of whom were already in their pads. I can say I was never late for anything in four years because of Brian!

"Beyond football, Brian was a special person and a terrific friend. He was a great man from a great family. His trademark smile and vibrant laugh will not be forgotten by those who knew him. He was incredibly selfless and eventually I came to realize that his frustrating text message exchanges — with one-word questions or comments — were simply his way of checking in on those he cared about.

"But above all, my college experience, and my life, would not have

been the same had I never met Brian. I cannot think about my time at Columbia without thinking of Brian's presence in all of it. From our first days of moving in to Carman Hall to going out to Senior Nights together, Brian was an integral part of everything on and off the field. Among the many memories, I will always remember living down the hall from him in Broadway over the summer going into our senior year, hanging out on Saturday nights after wins and losses with our teammates and the time spent at his family's home in New Jersey. I will always treasure the countless hours we spent together and our friendship over all these years. Brian represented the very best of Columbia and I know I join all of my classmates and all of my teammates in saying that we will miss him deeply."

**Nicholas Mills:** "Brian and I were Carman 12 suitmates; we shared the suite with both **Steve Santos** and **Sean Brackett**.

"One of my first memories of Brian was teaching him how to do laundry in the sub-basement of Carman. I recall him knocking on my door to ask for help; he took me to the washer he had previously run a batch of clothes through and asked why they weren't clean. I then asked if he put laundry detergent in before he ran the washer, to which he responded 'no.' I knew right then I had my work cut out for me.

"Brian and I hung out when we could; I remember he had originally started college as a pre-med student and we had similar class schedules.



Submit  
Your  
Photo



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.





JJ5 freshman floormates met up at their fifth reunion this past June. Left to right: Alexander Pensler '14, Suhas Thalapaneni '14, Kevin Zhang '14, Nick Parker '14, Jonathan Hofman '14, Solomon Hoffman '14, Joel Camacho '14, Dana Benami '14, Yaas Bigdeli SEAS '14, Anthony Ramirez '14, Nim Gumaste '14, Sarita Patankar '14, Rebecca Fattell '14 and Vikas Vavilala '14.

We definitely spent a NYE together in NYC, though I can't recall the locale. He had his group of football players and I had my group of wrestlers but we were certainly friends. He honestly didn't go out much, but I do remember one night at the now-throwback Campo; he wasn't afraid to dance but he was wonderfully awkward at it. His smile was absolutely contagious and he laughed a sort of laugh that was distinguishable from thousands. He

had a natural curiosity about things, albeit I had a hard time discerning when he was being genuine or sarcastic. I assumed the latter almost always yet entertained his inquiries. He was a good friend."

**Cameron Ross:** "Brian was a great classmate, teammate and friend. His strong work ethic built through sports carried over into his personal life. He was loyal to a fault once you got to know him and a genuine person who was always

there for you. His smile and laugh could brighten up a room and he will be deeply missed by many."

**Bob Hauschildt '12:** "Brian was one of the hardest working people I've ever met. He would put his heart and soul into every single thing he did. His intensity was unwavering, whether it be on the football field, in the classroom or simply tossing a ball around. But the thing I'll remember most is he did all of this with a massive smile that went from ear to ear. Brian smiled with his whole body and that will always stay with me. Brian was a great teammate and a better friend and he will be sorely missed."

**Maria Sulimirski:** "I will always remember Brian's kind eyes and big smile. He had the same sweet presence in our elementary and middle school classrooms in Kinnelon, N.J., as he did when we crossed paths again moving into Carman a few years later. Sending all of my love and prayers to his beautiful family."

**Andrew Heinrich:** "Brian was, above all, a great teammate. He cared deeply about all of us, and was always fun to be around. What I remember most about Brian is how he continued to be a great 'teammate' even after our final game. Brian always took interest in what we were doing and did his utmost to support us. Nothing epitomizes Brian more than the texts I would get with ideas he had for me to use at work or when he would show up to my work events just to show his support. I think my ultimate memory of Brian is him tracking me down in Ferris our junior year with notes he had written out with ideas for how to take something I was working on to the next level."

**Ashley Zambito:** "Brian, you always made a room shine, and you will forever shine down on us. Your caring heart exhibited such brilliance and you were loved just as much, if not more, in return."

"I for one, will always remember our special times at Columbia. I enjoyed learning more about you each year as our major, sports and general interests fueled our friendship. As you tended to keep quiet around most, I knew you to be incredibly caring and that you were always there for me, your teammates and your friends. From our fun trips downtown, to our almost daily study sessions, to doing our best to enjoy all of our econ classes, words can't

explain the laughter and moments we shared, but I will always hold them close to my heart."

"I am sending my prayers, love and best Brian smile to you and your family. Nothing will replace your loss, but you filled us all with great joy that we will have forever."

**Sabaah Jordan:** "Sending all my love to the friends and family of Brian DeVeau. He was a truly awesome guy, always kind and funny, always working hard in the gym. He was one of the people who made my Columbia experience memorable in the best way. I am deeply saddened and know his loss will be a heavy weight on everyone who knew him."

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
rsf2121@columbia.edu

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our five-year reunion! It's hard to believe that five years have passed since graduation. Our JJ5 freshman floor did an excellent job of finding each other for a picture, and I got to see **Alexander Pensler, Suhas Thalapaneni, Kevin Zhang, Nick Parker, Jonathan Hofman, Solomon Hoffman, Joel Camacho, Dana Benami, Yaas Bigdeli SEAS '14, Anthony Ramirez, Nim Gumaste, Sarita Patankar and Vikas Vavilala.**

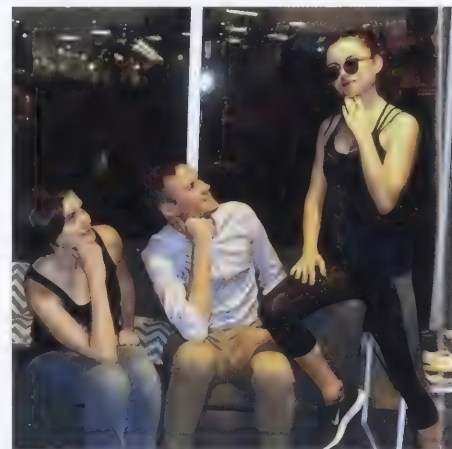
**Ronique Marksman** had a great time catching up with classmates at reunion! After three years at Ember Charter School in Brooklyn, she will be pursuing a master's in Chicago. If

## Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!  
What's a fun way to note it?  
Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku.** Send your 5-7-5 recollections to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu), and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.



Karina Brasgalla '15 (left), Chris Canales '14 (center) and Nora Rose BC '15 played trivia in El Paso, Texas.





CC'15 friends recently traveled to Chicago to visit Bitania Wondimu. Left to right: Wondimu, Vishal Alluri, Kareem Carryl and Mihika Barua.

you are in the area and would like to connect, let her know.

**Sam Kazer** and **Julia Sayles** BC'14 were married overlooking the Long Island Sound in New Rochelle, N.Y., on July 13. The couple met at a Musical Mentors party thrown in Sam's Ruggles suite during their junior year. Sam taught Julia how to play beer pong, and the two bonded over playing Cards Against Humanity. Now living in Boston, Sam and Julia fill their time outside lab and teaching with pub trivia, *MasterChef*, home brewing and making music.

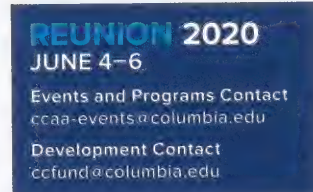
**Jeanine Alvarez** and **Mycheal Crafton** SEAS'14, SEAS'17 got engaged this June at the American Museum of Natural History. There to celebrate were a few of their closest friends, **Nelson Castaño**, Cathi Choi '13, Johnny Fells III SEAS'16, Akinyele Jordan '15 and Jachele Vélez '11, LAW'17.

**Finn Vigeland** graduated in May from the Harvard Graduate School of Design with a master's in urban planning and moved to Washington, D.C., in July, where he lives with Jay Rappaport '18. Finn is a transportation planner at Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning in Rockville, Md. He hopes to fix the MTA someday, but for now is looking forward to meeting Lions in the D.C. area!

**Eric Ingram** is completing a master's degree/teaching credential program at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education to become a high school English teacher in California.

**Chris Canales** is chief of staff to Rep. Cissy Lizarraga in El Paso, and a professional soccer referee in the USL Championship (the second division in the United States and Canada, one level below Major League Soccer). He recently got engaged to Nora Rose BC'15, and they plan to tie the knot in NYC next year. They've also formed a pub trivia triad, Updog, with Karina Brasgalla '15, and they love to host visiting Columbia friends in the Borderland to help them crush the competition.

## 2015



**Kareem Carryl**  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! By the time you read this, we will be less than one year away from our five-year reunion. I cannot wait to see you all there and learn more about what you all been up to! But do not wait until then — as we start to see more graduations, new jobs, engagements and other life happenings, please write to me, or feel free to nominate someone for me to reach out to! We would love to have more stories and photos for Class Notes!

Here's what some of our friends have been up to lately:

Another reason to thank Columbia Housing: **Sida Li** and **Andrew Ren** got engaged in New York City on April 26. They met on campus and were RAs together!

**Lisa Harshman** and **James Glynn** have also recently gotten engaged! Congratulations!

**Courtney Garrity** is 700 miles into thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail! She writes, "I did the first 550 on my own and am now hiking the next 400 with a research group conducting avian, herpetile, vegetation and eDNA surveys through the southern Sierra Nevadas."

**Stella Zhao** let us know that **Esme Levy** founded a clothing company that mainly designs yoga pants that makes leg prints of insects as the yoga pant print to raise awareness for vulnerable ecosystems. Stella also let us know that **Kristine Musadamba**, **Chloe Durkin** and **Esme Levy** flew to Houston for 48 hours to cheer her on for her first crochet competition. Fun fact: The event lasted 14 hours with 68 meters of yarn. Her friends stayed for the whole event!

And a quick update from me: I recently traveled to Chicago with **Mihika Barua** and **Vishal Alluri** for a weekend of fun visiting **Bitania Wondimu**, who is attending Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

As always, your classmates want to hear from you. Please be sure to

submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hey, CC'16! From talking to many of you at Reunion Weekend 2019, it seems we've all been pretty busy! Here are some highlights:

From **Tyler Huyser**: "Being biracial, I've always been asked, 'What are you?' Confused by the question and the frequency with which it was asked sparked a desire in me to learn about the racialized and cultural experiences of others from an early age. After completing my film degree at Columbia and moving south to begin a career in the burgeoning Georgia film industry, this fascination was transformed into action when the hateful dialogue of the 2016 election grew deafening. I sought to compile the stories of others with the intention of creating a platform to share them with the world."

"The project morphed from a simple interview series (à la Humans of New York) into a virtual reality project, *Walk In My Shoes*. It has since blossomed into a media company that links innovative technology with storytelling media in order to create high-impact platforms



CC'16 alumni met in April to support Madison Ford at the NYC screening of *Nathan's Kingdom*, in which Ford stars. Left to right: Grayson Warrick, Dan Multer, Ford, Brandon Martinez and Lily Liu-Krason.





Phantila Phataraprasit '16 and Caitlin de Lisser-Ellen '16 co-founded the sustainable furniture company Sabai Design.

that inspire inclusivity. We recently launched on social. Follow us on Instagram @walkinmyshoesmedia to check out our stories."

**Shen Qiu** successfully hit five continents in a month on a work trip helping Uber Eats grow its business globally. He lives in San Francisco and is looking for a language buddy to practice French, Spanish and Japanese — let him know at sq2145@columbia.edu if you're interested!

**Phantila Phataraprasit** and **Caitlin de Lisser-Ellen** launched their sustainable furniture company, Sabai

Design. Inspired by the movement to rethink excessive consumption in other entrenched industries, Sabai aims to challenge the fast furniture model and make pieces that are sustainable, beautiful and work with a flexible lifestyle. The "Closed Loop" program will extend the lifecycle of the pieces through a buy-back program, where any Sabai sofa can be purchased back at a discount and sold secondhand. Follow them on Instagram @sabai.design or email them at general@sabai.design.

In April I went with **Grayson Warrick**, **Dan Multer**, **Madison**

**Ford** and **Brandon Martinez** to support **Madison** in her leading role in the film *Nathan's Kingdom* at its New York screening.

What have you all been up to? As always, write in to say hello!

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
carl.yin@columbia.edu

**Elle Wisnicki** moved to San Diego and became a homeowner!

**Karisma Price** recently completed a master's program at NYU and graduated with an M.F.A. in poetry. This fall she is a visiting assistant professor at Tulane University.

It's been a wild year and a half since **Marina Chan's** last Class Note, thanks to a casual lunch with her former theatre professor, **Hana Worthen**. That lunch ended up launching a one-year series of panel discussions conceived, curated and organized by Marina, in collaboration with the Barnard Theatre Department and the Asia Society's Performing Arts Department. The series, "Asian Americans in Theatre: Art and Activism," consisted of three panels involving theater professionals and scholars discussing Asian-American theater, artistic identity and activism, with an eye to expediting awareness and change. The series (and a corresponding lecture Marina gave at Barnard) came at a ripe time, filling in dire gaps in Marina's knowledge and coinciding with what turned out to be a watershed year for Asian-American representation in entertainment. Ideally the momentum will continue, for all minorities.

Now, with the series completed and having recently returned from a family trip (worst part: purse theft in Stockholm; best part: Rovaniemi, Finland, gateway to the Arctic Circle and home of Santa Claus and his reindeer!), Marina will strive to contribute to that momentum through playwriting and she hopes performing, as well, if she isn't too rusty (seeing as her first role was the Tin-"Gal" in *The Wiz*, in middle school!).

**Nate Barasch** is moving to Tokyo for a year at the end of September to work in the IT innovation department in the head office of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. He would love for classmates who live there or will be visiting to reach out, as he will not

know anyone there going in. よろしくお願ひします!

This fall, **Brian Manzo** will start in the statistics Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan.

**Brynn Harris** writes, "After graduating with an M.P.H., I moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where I'm the administrative fellow for the University of Utah's Hospitals & Clinics. I'm enjoying the mountains and can't wait to take my baby pug, Vegas, hiking with me."

And a note from me (**Carl Yin**): I am moving to the Bay Area in the fall, and would love to connect with anyone out there!

## 2018

**Alexander Birkel** and  
**Maleeha Chida**  
ab4065@columbia.edu  
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Thanks to everyone who sent us their exciting updates! As always, keep us posted about your adventures, big or small.

**Antonia Georgieva** writes, "I am based in London, working on an M.F.A. in advanced theatre practice at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Recently, I founded the female-led Aslant Theatre Company, and we performed our debut production, *MUSE*, as part of the Camden Fringe Festival in London in August. The show will transfer to the Tristan Bates Theatre



Perry Kerner '18 (left) and Dylan Cooper '18 met up in Nyhavn, Copenhagen.

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Members of the crew of the upcoming film *Glance from the Edge*, filmed in Bulgaria, posed in a lavender field. Included in the photograph are Kosta Karakashyan '19, Lora Beltcheva '19, Stephanie Handjiiska, Kevin Chiu SEAS'17 and Julien Leitner '20.

for a weeklong run in November. We would love to see any Columbia alumni there!"

**Perry Kerner** and **Dylan Cooper** started medical school in August at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and Hofstra University, respectively. Before all the hard work began, they met up in Nyhavn, Copenhagen!

**Kelly Powers** is getting a Ph.D. in classics at Florida State University. She originally enrolled in the master's program there but switched into the Ph.D. program during her second semester. Her degree track focuses on ancient Greek and Latin language and literature. Kelly's areas of interest are Greek and Latin poetry, gender and sexuality in ancient poetry, and reception of poetry (how later writers interact with and respond to earlier writers).

This past June, **Maleeha Chida** returned from a year in northern Spain as a Fulbright Scholar. She taught English at a secondary school in La Rioja, Spain's wine-growing region. While she misses her school and the beauty of the northern Spanish landscape, she is excited to be back in New York City, where she is an analyst at the law firm Kobre & Kim.

## 2019

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Emily Gruber**  
**Tj Aspen Givens**  
tag2149@columbia.edu  
eag2169@columbia.edu

Congratulations, Class of 2019! We are officially alumni and are excited to stay in touch. Send Class Notes for future issues to **Emily Gruber** and **Tj Aspen Givens** to either of the email addresses above. We will miss you all during back-to-school season on Morningside Heights!

Here are our first updates as alumni!

**Alan Blaesser** is teaching sailing lessons on the Cape.

**Elise Fuller** recently moved to New Jersey and is a consulting analyst at Accenture.

**Heidi Hai** sends an update from Paris: "In preparation for attending NYU Law in the fall, I decided to

go to Paris to better my French and do some 'soul searching,' as self-help handbooks would probably term the sum of my museum-going, cinema-hunting and historic site excursions of ambiguous nature. I enjoy the immediate, sentimental reactions paintings and sculptures have been giving me. Walking in the streets of Paris, seeing a largely similar picture of the city as Parisians during the Belle Epoque and stepping into palaces that housed kings and queens 400 years ago, I sense how history elevates me from a relatively mundane version of life. Two months after graduation, I feel readier for my future, and I hope you do too."

Dancing alumni **Kosta Karakashyan** and **Lora Beltcheva** are collaborating on the film *Glance from the Edge*, which wrapped up filming this past summer across 12 cultural/historical sites in Bulgaria — Sofia, Plovdiv, Prohodna cave, the Black Sea coast, Ovech Fortress and many others. Kosta is directing and choreographing the film in collaboration with fellow Bulgarian dancer/choreographer Stephanie Handjiiska after they worked together on a project in Egypt last year, and Lora is their invaluable line producer, making sure the budget, travel and filming logistics are all in order.

*Glance from the Edge* is a Bulgarian-American collaboration between co-directors and choreographers Kosta and Stephanie, DoP Kevin

Chiu SEAS'17, composer Julien Leitner '20 (stage name Jude Icarus) and line producer Lora. The project is supported by the National Culture Fund of Bulgaria, Derida Dance Center, and is an associated project for Plovdiv 2019 - European Capital of Culture. *Glance from the Edge* is a short film about six individuals who find themselves swept across a tapestry of 12 Bulgarian landscapes as they struggle to establish relationships, place and belonging. Through the medium of dance, their interwoven stories of growth and loss offer a glance from the edge of the human condition and its inherent dangers.

Kosta and Lora graduated with their degrees in dance and economics/sustainable development, respectively. "We can't wait for the premiere to be presented in Sofia and Plovdiv in autumn 2019," they shared, "The team is looking for a partner for United States and European distribution."

**Matthew Petti** writes with a career update: "I recently got a job as a national security reporter at *The National Interest*. My first two articles were about the British ambassador's row with Trump, and British-Iranian tensions over oil tankers."

**Josh Schenk** spent the summer surfing and working with Cory Booker on his presidential campaign.

**Solomon Wiener** and several CC friends traveled to Thailand and visited Ayutthaya, an old Siamese capital.



Solomon Wiener '19 (second from left) and several CC friends traveled to Thailand and visited Ayutthaya, an old Siamese capital.



# obituaries

## 1941

**Arthur D. Taplinger**, retired engineer, Fort Lee, N.J., on February 12, 2019. Taplinger entered with the Class of 1941 but earned three degrees from Columbia Engineering: a B.S. in engineering in 1943, an M.S. in chemical engineering in 1944 and an M.S. in mechanical engineering in 1947. During his career as an instrumentation engineer, he worked for companies such as American Can Co., DuPont, Lever Brothers and Lockwood Greene designing control systems for plants that made pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, coke (a grey, hard and porous fuel with a high carbon content and few impurities, made by heating coal or oil in the absence of air) for steel mills, and beer, among other things. During WWII, he worked on the Manhattan Project. Taplinger loved classical music, played the violin, painted and for a while in his youth flew piper cub airplanes. He was a longtime resident of Englewood, N.J., and for the last five years of his life lived in Fort Lee. Taplinger was predeceased by his wife, Estelle Pine Taplinger, and his partner later in his life, Edith Woods. He is survived by his son, Michael '79; daughter, Susan; and the many friends, acquaintances and strangers whose lives he touched with his kindness, generosity and optimism.

### Obituary Submission Guidelines

*Columbia College Today* welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

## 1945

**George T. "Ted" Wright**, professor emeritus, Louisville, Ky., on May 1, 2019. Wright was born on Staten Island, N.Y., on December 17, 1925. He earned an M.A. in 1947 from GSAS and a Ph.D. in English literature in 1957 from UC Berkeley. Wright had a distinguished teaching career, beginning at the University of Kentucky as assistant professor, 1957–60, and continuing at the University of Tennessee as associate professor, 1961–68. He then began a long tenure at the University of Minnesota, where he was professor, Regent's Professor, chair of the Department of English and finally Professor Emeritus. Wright received two Fulbright awards, an NEH Senior Research Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship, among other honors and awards. He authored six books about poets and poetry, including the works of Eliot, Yeats, Pound and Auden, but his specialty was the examination of the metrical qualities of Shakespeare. Wright wrote dozens of articles in professional journals of English, published about 80 poems in periodicals and published a volume, *Aimless Life*. Wright was predeceased by his wife, Jerry Honeywell Wright; brother, Lawrence; his sister-in-law, Joyce; sister, Norma Weaver; and brother-in-law, Robert Weaver. He is survived by his nephew, Raymond; and nieces, Pamela Rehman, Colleen Long and Sharon.

## 1946

**Baruch S. "Barry" Jacobson**, retired professor, Wynnewood, Pa., on February 29, 2019. Jacobson graduated from Bronx Science at 16 and enrolled at the College before serving in the Army in Germany at the close of WWII. Upon returning stateside, he moved to northern California and farmed chickens, then earned a Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley. Jacobson became a professor at the University of Texas, University of Minnesota and Central Michigan University (CMU), where he was on the faculty for 20

years. He published his final academic paper at 80. The last decades of Jacobson's life were rich and varied, even after his wife of nearly 50 years, Guadalupe Savedra, passed away. With Betty Owen, he toured the Western states that she'd grown up in. Political activism was one of the key values that he shared with his progeny. Raised in a questioning Jewish household and married to a Catholic, Jacobson was for 70 years a Unitarian. He is survived by his sons, Carlos and Ramon; daughters, Mercedes BC'82, PS'87 and Raquel; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. They provided him new audiences for his old jokes, and in return, they were tech support for his phone. Memorial contributions may be made to Union of Concerned Scientists and CMU's Department of Physics.

## 1948

**Alan S. Kuller**, real estate executive, Rye, N.Y., on December 7, 2018. Kuller graduated from Erasmus Hall and won a Randolph Hearst American History Award. At the College, he edited *Spectator* and the *Columbia Law Review*, and was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Kuller served in the Navy during WWII. He earned a degree from the Law School in 1949 and became senior VP and head of real estate for Caldor for many years. Intellectual curiosity, humor and irreverence marked his attitude toward life. Kuller loved to travel off the beaten path. He was active in his local synagogue and played a significant role in its adult education program. Kuller was predeceased by his wife, Nancy Schoenbrod Kuller; and leaves his longtime, devoted partner, Myra Lehman; brother, Lewis; daughters, Debora Shuger, Judith Verhave and Lisa Kuller (Dalesio); six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Community Synagogue of Rye Adult Education Program, 200 Forest Ave., Rye, NY 10580.

**Marshall W. Mount**, art professor and researcher, Jersey City, N.J., on November 25, 2018. Mount was

a zoot-suited teen covering NYC jazz for his high school paper and became a serious art history student at Columbia, from the College through his 1966 Ph.D., earned at GSAS. In 1960, Mount was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship to do field research on post-WWI African art in sub-Saharan Africa. His book *African Art: The Years Since 1920* was the first volume of contemporary African art published in the United States. Mount was an art history professor and department chair at Finch College, NYC, and the University of Benin, Nigeria. He also taught at the Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY) and Washington Square College (NYU), among other institutions. With an FIT George T. Dorsch Endowed Fellowship he spent several months researching traditional art in the cultural festivals of Cameroon's Grassfields, leading to an exhibition/catalogue at the QCC Art Gallery (CUNY). Mount also loved music, far-flung travel, films and cooking. His is survived by his wife, Caroline Katz Mount; son (from his previous marriage), Christopher '85, and his wife, Stephanie; and grandson, Julian. Memorial contributions may be made to the African Wildlife Foundation.

## 1949

**Dominick P. Purpura**, physician, professor, researcher and academic administrator, New York City, on May 16, 2019. Even prior to graduating magna cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1953, Purpura was the lead author, as a medical student, on a paper examining the neurophysiology of spinal neurons. After training at Columbia's Neurological Institute of New York, from which he graduated in 1954, Purpura devoted himself to laboratory research and integrated a wide array of techniques and approaches to study the nervous system. His exceptional technical abilities combined with his keen intellect allowed him to tackle difficult and pressing questions in brain sciences, including pioneering work on epilepsy and





intellectual disabilities. Purpura was instrumental in establishing the Society for Neuroscience, and the second free-standing neuroscience department in a medical school. He also introduced the first modern medical school and post-graduate neuroscience curriculum, which quickly became a national model. Purpura's scientific accomplishments secured him membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. He was dean of Stanford University and of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Throughout his career, Purpura was remarkable for his love of science, his approachability and his mentorship.

## 1951

**Arthur S. Verdesca**, retired physician and corporate medical director, Morristown, N.J., on August 11, 2018. Verdesca earned an M.D. from P&S in 1955. While doing post-graduate training in internal medicine at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City, he served as a captain



Dr. Arthur S. Verdesca '51

in the Air Force at Stewart AFB in Tennessee; he was chief of medical service 1957–59. From 1961, when Verdesca finished his training at St. Luke's, until 1985, he worked for Western Electric in New York as headquarters medical director. From 1985 to 2005, he was corporate medical director for American International Group, also in New York. During his service in Tennessee, and until 1968, Verdesca broadcast a one-hour classical music program, *Mostly Mozart*, on several radio stations in the New York metropolitan area. In 1980, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. published a collection of his

medical articles for the layman, *Live, Work, and Be Healthy: A Top Medical Director's Common-sense Advice and Observations for the Working Person*. Verdesca was a crossword puzzle constructor, publishing almost 50 puzzles a year at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ann; son, Stephen '85, and his wife, Patricia Durner; daughters, Julia Lucivoro and her husband, Philip Joseph, and Edith Kaplan and her husband, Christopher; and five grandchildren.

## 1952

**Albert Ackerman**, retired ophthalmologist, Arcadia, Calif., on July 16, 2019. Ackerman made significant medical advances as a leading ophthalmologist in the Tri-State area. He was a charter member of The Retina Society (founded in 1967), whose mission is to reduce worldwide visual disability and blindness, with particular emphasis on vitreoretinal diseases. Ackerman established retinal services at several hospitals in New York and New Jersey, including the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai. He was on the faculty of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, as well as other medical schools that are affiliated with teaching hospitals. Ackerman was a warm-hearted, generous, loving and caring person



Dr. Albert Ackerman '52

who would reach out to his patients under any circumstances. He is survived by two children and his long-term partner.

**Daniel C. Seemann**, retired university director of student activities and professor, Sylvania, Ohio, on September 3, 2018. Seemann was born on April 29, 1930, in Wal-

### OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear.

- 1951 **Richard B. Morron**, retired business manager, Madison, Conn., on April 18, 2019.
- 1954 **James G. Taaffe**, professor of English, Tuscaloosa, Ala., on July 3, 2019.
- 1955 **Merritt Chandler Nauts Jr.**, retired educator, Ann Arbor, Mich., on July 2, 2019.
- 1962 **John V. Pellarin**, retired dentist, Andover, N.J., on July 4, 2019.
- 1965 **William L. Goring**, antiquarian book dealer, Torrington, Conn., on July 31, 2019.
- 1969 **Thomas T. Rapp**, retired attorney, Phoenix, Ariz., on July 28, 2019.
- 1975 **Peter S. Zisson**, retired, Austin, Texas, on August 7, 2019.
- 1999 **Lea Kronenberg (née Miller)**, attorney and real estate entrepreneur, New York City, on July 30, 2019.
- 2011 **Travis G. Welcome-Joyner**, elementary school teacher, Atlanta, on May 8, 2019.
- 2018 **Brian T. DeVeu**, managing director of M&A, Kinnelon, N.J., on June 23, 2019.

bridge, Ohio. He excelled at sports at Waite H.S.; he was All-City in basketball and continued the sport at the College. Shortly after marrying Rosemary, in 1952, he was deployed to Korea while in the Marine Corps. After his discharge, he pursued a master's in educational psychology at the University of Toledo. This started a 40-year career at the university as director of student activities. In 1980, Seemann completed a Ph.D. in educational psychology and became a psychology professor. He remained in the Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of colonel. He also had a lifelong love of music and playing the bass; he founded The Dan Seemann Quintet with friends and played locally for years. Seemann was predeceased by his wife, and by his siblings Bob, and Patti Jones. He is survived by his brother John and John's wife, Carol; sister Joan Gannon and her husband, Lee; children, Jeff and his wife, Nadine, Greg and his wife,

Mary, Mitch and his wife, Sharon, and Anne Hammersmith and her husband, Don; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

**Charles W. Young**, medical oncologist, New York City, on December 31, 2018. Young graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1956. During his 42-year tenure at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he was chief, Developmental Chemotherapy Service (1979–92); head, Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory, Sloan-Kettering Institute (1979–93); and Professor of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College (1982–99). Young was also an advisor to the American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute. To his patients, Young was caring and kind. To his colleagues, he was known for his innovative approaches to cancer treatment. To his family, he was a source of



strength and wisdom. Young is survived by his wife, Helene; sons, Stephen and his wife, Sara, and Matthew; and stepchildren, Bonnie, and Benjamin and his wife, Lily. He was predeceased by his eldest son, Michael, and sister, Jean. Memorial contributions may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (pollocke@mskcc.org).

## 1954

**Michael R. Naver**, retired government public affairs specialist, Baltimore, on March 29, 2019. Naver was born on February 15, 1933, in New York City. He graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., where he had his first bylines as a reporter on the school newspaper. With a New York State Scholarship, he enrolled at the College, where he earned a liberal arts degree. Naver joined *Spectator* and rose to news editor by his senior year. He earned a master of liberal arts degree from the Johns Hopkins University and in 1958 joined the staff of the *Baltimore Evening Sun* as a local reporter, where he stayed for 10 years. In November 1968, Naver became a public affairs specialist at the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, Md. His career lasted 30 years, and he received several agency awards, including its highest award, the Commissioner's Citation. Naver retired from government service in 1999. He married the former Irid Bucci in 1965; she survives him, as do their children, Richard and Meg; and two grandchildren.

## 1955

**Ronald P. McPhee**, retired insurance executive, Somers, N.Y., on June 25, 2018. McPhee was born on May 13, 1933, in Manhattan. He grew up in the Bronx, graduated from Cardinal Hayes H.S. and was awarded a scholarship to Columbia. He was captain of the varsity basketball team in 1955. After the College, McPhee joined the Air Force, became a pilot and rose to the rank of captain. Following his military service, he found work with TIAA-CREF, where he worked for 40 years and from which he retired as a VP of insurance services. Throughout his adult life McPhee was an avid tennis player and plat-

form tennis player, actively involved with various community organizations at Heritage Hills of Somers, N.Y., and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife, Carol (née Frueh); son, Ronald Jr., and his wife, Donna; daughter, Carolyn Doan, and her husband, Jim; and two grandchildren.

## 1956

**Robert Cabat**, retired educator, Staten Island, N.Y., on June 5, 2019. Cabat began his career as a middle and high school teacher of Spanish and French in Brooklyn, N.Y. He then became chair of foreign languages at New Utrecht



Robert Cabat '56

H.S. in Brooklyn; it was during this period that he received a Ph.D. in Spanish literature from NYU. Cabat eventually became head of foreign languages for the entire New York City DOE, and after retirement was a professor at several institutions. He was the co-author of several popular secondary-level textbooks, and was the president of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. He was extremely proud to have been able to use his Columbia education to help improve the lives of thousands of students and dozens of teachers across the years. Cabat is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Joshua '86 and Abigail; and three grandchildren.

## 1957

**Michael Gold**, retired attorney, Harbor City, Calif., on January 30, 2018. Born in New York City in 1935, Gold grew up there and in Hillside, N.J. At Hillside H.S. he

was class president and an Eagle Scout. While at Columbia, Gold pledged with the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, and met his first wife, Lucienne "Lucy" Kacew, whom he married the summer after graduation. They lived in Jersey City while Gold attended Rutgers Law School. After graduation, Gold worked for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and was an assistant state prosecutor before founding his own law practice in Flemington, N.J., with his brother, Stephen. Gold participated in Democratic politics, including serving as Hunterdon County Democratic chairman. He married Virginia D'Andrade in 1979 and relocated to California in 1980, where he designed a computerized Worker-Right-to-Know system, a database used to settle asbestos liability cases, and a litigation support business. With his wife, he also established the Virginia M. Woolf Foundation, which converts written materials into large type for the visually impaired. Gold is survived by his daughters, Pamela Gold and her husband, Jay Brandt, Kathrine Gubner and her husband, Kenric, and Jennifer Minotti and her husband, Tod; four grandchildren; stepchildren, David D'Andrade and Anne McNally; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Gale and Fred Driver.

## 1959

**Vincent H. Demma**, retired military historian, Lanham, Md., on September 18, 2018. Demma was born on December 9, 1937, in Brooklyn, N.Y. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he moved to Washington, D.C., in 1962 to be a military historian for the United States Army Center of Military History, where he served until his retirement in 1999. As a historian of the Vietnam War, Demma was widely consulted and contributed his expertise to several documentaries and books. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie (née Lippman); children, Matthew, Rachel, and Sarah Klein; children-in-law, Rachel Demma (née Shapiro) and Philip Klein; four grandchildren; brother, Peter; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

## 1961

**Norman A. Kurnit**, physicist, Santa Fe, N.M., on February 6, 2019. After graduating from the College, Kurnit went directly to GSAS, where he earned a master's in 1962 and a Ph.D. in 1966, both in physics. He spent the majority of his career working at Los Alamos National Laboratory and lived in Santa Fe, N.M. Kurnit is survived by Ellen, his wife of 50 years; two children; and two grandchildren.

**David Schwartz**, retired oral surgeon, Larchmont, N.Y., on July 7, 2019. Born on May 2, 1939, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Schwartz was raised in White Plains. He received an academic scholarship to attend the Dental School and graduated in 1965, second in his class. Schwartz completed his oral surgery training at The Roosevelt Hospital in 1968 and immediately joined in private practice with Dr. Bertram Blum. He, along with Dr. Debra Blum (in 1985), practiced oral surgery at Blum, Schwartz & Blum for more than 50 years in Queens. Schwartz served on the Board of Trustees of both the Queens County Dental Society and the New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. An avid golfer, tennis player, skier, guitarist and singer, he was a longtime member of the Bonnie Briar Country Club, where he was the Super Senior Club Champion in golf in 2017. Schwartz also maintained a summer home in Wellfleet, Mass. Schwartz had said, "The best part of my job is getting to know my patients and feeling that I've helped them to feel better." He is survived by his brothers, Michael and Larry; wife, Isabel (née Clippinger); daughter, Beth Jones; son-in-law, Jamie Jones; son, John; daughter-in-law, Amy Kean; and four grandchildren.

## 1967

**Robert G. Segel**, retired investments executive, Key Biscayne, Fla., on September 6, 2017. Segel earned an M.B.A. at the University of Michigan. He started his career at Tucker Anthony and rose to become managing director. Segel founded Park Street Capital in 1997, initially





## Alex Navab '87, University Trustee, Former BOV Chair, Prominent Financier

**Alex Navab '87**, a University trustee and former chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors (BOV) who recently formed his own investment firm, died on July 7, 2019. He was 53.

Navab was born in Isfahan, Iran, on November 24, 1965, to Dr. Ali and Katina (née Armenakis) Navab. The family — Navab was one of four children — fled to Greece after the Iranian revolution in 1979 before moving to the United States.

Navab worked at Goldman Sachs from 1987 to 1989 before earning an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1991; he graduated as a Baker Scholar (High Distinction) and was presented the Edna E. Wolfe Award. He then worked at the investment bank James D. Wolfensohn, Inc., before joining KKR — then known as Kohlberg Kravis Roberts — in 1993.

Overseeing numerous leveraged buyouts at KKR, including the takeovers of the Nielsen Company, Yellow Pages and Borden, Navab

by 2008 had become co-leader of the firm's North American private equity business. He took sole leadership of the division six years later, and as head of North American buyouts helped the firm raise nearly \$14 billion for its 12th North American private equity fund, one of the biggest of its kind. Navab left KKR in 2017 and announced in April 2019 that he had formed Navab Capital Partners.

Navab, who lived in New York City, was an involved and generous Columbia alumnus; his giving of his time and energies began as president of his sophomore class and continued as president of the Columbia College Student Council his senior year. An outstanding student who graduated Phi Beta Kappa, Navab also captained the varsity lightweight crew team, and maintained close ties as a benefactor. He donated two shells in summer 2018 and was presented the 2018 King's Crown Rowing Association honor this past December.

While on the BOV, where he was a member from 2005 to 2017, with terms as vice-chair from 2011 to 2014 and chair from 2014 to 2016, Navab led the effort to develop a strategic plan for the College; this became the foundation of the Core to Commencement campaign, the first campaign uniquely dedicated to Columbia College students and faculty. In partnership with Dean James J. Valentini, Navab helped shape a plan that would focus on strengthening the student experience, enhancing the Core Curriculum and supporting faculty committed to teaching undergraduates as priorities for the College's success.

Navab became co-chair of the Core to Commencement campaign; he and his wife, Mary Kathryn — who survives him, along with their three children and his parents — gave \$6 million to Columbia to create the Navab Fellowship Program, announced this past December, to fund internships for students. Navab was also a board member of



NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and the Robin Hood Foundation, among many others. He was elected a University trustee in 2017, was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement by the College in 2011 and was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, a national award that recognizes recipients' public service and patriotism as well as their connection to their ethnic heritage, in 2016.

as a joint venture with Tucker Anthony Sutro. Following the Royal Bank of Canada's acquisition, Segel left the company to allow his private equity business to become an



Robert G. Segel '67

independent entity. He worked tirelessly for 40 years in the investment business, committed to excellence and treasuring his close relationships with his partners. In addition to his professional pursuits, Segel was civic-minded and generously sup-

ported numerous organizations. He served on the Board of Trustees of his children's schools, Buckingham Browne & Nichols in Cambridge, Mass., and Ransom Everglades in Coconut Grove, Fla. A devoted husband to Janice Sherman, Segel was also the father of Julia and Michael. He especially loved and was loved by his dogs, Callie and Wilma. Segel's sense of humor, genuine warmth and ability to talk with anyone allowed him to create lifelong relationships with everyone he met.

## 1969

**Roy S. Feldman**, retired chief, dental service, and professor of dental medicine, Jamison, Pa., on March 8, 2019. Feldman spent eight years at Columbia, majoring in Greek at the College while fulfilling a journalism urge as editor of the 1969 *Columbian*, and then as a predoctoral student in the Dental School, from which he graduated in 1973. From 1973 to 1980, Feldman attended the

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, earning an D.M.Sc. and then continuing as an assistant professor. From 1980 on, Feldman was chief, dental service at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and a professor at Penn's School of Dental Medicine. He was an active alumnus with the College, the Dental School and the Columbia Club of Philadelphia. Feldman enjoyed his retirement with his wife, Nadia Rosen, who survives him and was his co-manager of Night Sight Farm, a horse farm in Bucks County, Pa. He was first married to Barbara Abrams, now deceased, and is survived by their daughters, Lauren and Emma; and Nadia's children, Louise and Oliver.

**Ronald R. Rosenblatt**, retired financial executive, West Des Moines, Iowa, on February 24, 2019. Born in New York City on January 31, 1947, Rosenblatt graduated from Scarsdale H.S. At the College, he played on the varsity basketball team. Rosenblatt earned a B.A. and M.A. (in 1974 from TC) in art

history, economics and education. After teaching high school science in NYC, he earned a Ph.D. in economics and education from the University of Idaho and then taught at Kansas State University. Rosenblatt then moved to Des Moines and had a distinguished career in mortgage banking before retiring as a principal partner at Fortress Wealth Management. He was a world traveler and an avid golfer, and served on the boards of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. Rosenblatt is survived by his wife, Susy; daughters Betsy Beck and her husband, Paul, and Katherine; brothers, David and his wife, Robyn, and Larry and his wife, Linda; sister, Ann Arbeit, and her husband, Stuart; and many nieces and nephews. Rosenblatt was predeceased by his brother, Bill. Memorial contributions may be made to The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines or the Southern Poverty Law Center.

— Lisa Palladino





## CORE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

In honor of the Centennial, we asked four artistic alums to take inspiration from the Core; for this and the next three issues, we'll provide a cartoon in need of a caption. We're kicking things off with longtime *New Yorker* contributor Edward Koren '57.

The winning caption will be published in the Winter 2019–20 issue, and the winner will get a signed print of Koren's cartoon. Any College student or College alum may enter. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to **[cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu)** by Friday, November 1.

ILLUSTRATION BY EDWARD KOREN '57





Being at Columbia has opened a plethora of doors, allowing me to explore all the avenues of who I am and who I want to be, while **providing me with the resources to push myself beyond** what I once thought possible.

— Maryam K. Hassan CC'20

Gifts to the Columbia College Fund provide funding for vital student life initiatives, which enrich the Columbia College journey for Maryam and so many students like her.

In addition to supporting student life, the Columbia College Fund supports financial aid, internships and the Core Curriculum.

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— Abby Pucker CC'14



Abby and others like her have funded thousands of summer experiences for College students as part of the Core to Commencement campaign. Join her in creating opportunities for students to explore their interests and passions through global experiences, research fellowships and internships.

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# CCT

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Today 

Winter 2019–20

**CRADLE OF  
(CONTEMPORARY)  
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THE CORE CURRICULUM'S  
ORIGIN STORY

**GREENER CLEANERS**  
AN AMBITIOUS NEW VENTURE  
FROM ECO-ENTREPRENEUR  
JOHN A. MASCARI '08

**SHE SAID**  
HOW JODI KANTOR '96 EXPOSED  
THE WEINSTEIN SCANDAL

Ann Kim '95 is  
bringing fire power  
to the Twin Cities

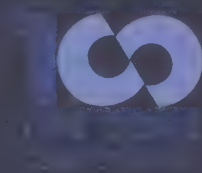
# TOPCHEF



*Do you know?*

# What is the longest-running book(s) on the Lit Hum syllabus?

Take the **Core Quiz** at [core100.columbia.edu](http://core100.columbia.edu)  
and share your results with **#corecelebration**.  
Then, check out the events, stories and more to celebrate the  
**Core Centennial year!**





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John A. Mascari '08 aims  
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*By Yelena Shuster '09*

**CCT** | Columbia  
College  
Today

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Now on **CCT Online**



### PRINT EXTRAS

- Homecoming 2019 Facebook album
- Art by Jack Stuppin '55



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EDWARD KOREN '57

*"Enough warm-ups, already! When are we  
going to roll boulders with Sisyphus?"*

The winner of our first Core Centennial cartoon caption contest is  
William A. Teichner '86! Thank you for all your submissions.  
This issue's cartoon is on page 80.



## Message from the Dean

# The Foundation of the College Experience

Columbia College students live and learn in a uniquely rich environment, with the opportunities that our college, the many other schools of our university and the City of New York offer. Approaching that experience with Beginner's Mind, they expand their knowledge and understanding of themselves and their world as they encounter new concepts, discover perspectives unfamiliar to them, and engage with their professors and peers in and out of the classroom.

The Core Curriculum is the foundation of this experience, expressing a conscious and deliberate institutional commitment to a curriculum taken by every student, specially constructed to prepare each of them to be analytical and imaginative, empathetic and active, and collaborative and visionary, as well as leaders in advancing their communities, society and the world. It achieves that through small classes in which instructors guide genuine discussions about how societies have been conceptualized and developed; how new knowledge has reshaped the concepts and reformed the development; how individual rights and responsibilities have been balanced; and how the joys and challenges of that human existence have been expressed in literature, music and art.

In the Core's centennial year, we celebrate not only its value, but also its spirit, and we celebrate it by examining it critically and analytically. We are revisiting its creation; examining its evolution and adaptation to a continually changing world; assessing its present success, challenges and limitations; and charting a future in which it will continue to achieve its ambitious goals. That examination, assessment and planning will be most successful if opinions, perspectives and ideas are contributed by the thousands of faculty and students who have participated in the Core during its long history.

In particular, we seek recollections from you, our alumni, about how it felt to be in Core classroom discussions, to struggle to understand Kant or Plato, to analyze the complex dynamic of composer and librettist in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, to explain the many-dimensional aesthetic of the works of Bernini. We want to hear how the Core has informed, guided and enlightened your life journey, so, we invite you to share your personal history of the Core through our Core Stories project ([core100.columbia.edu/core-stories](http://core100.columbia.edu/core-stories)), which will run through the end of the centennial year (June 2020).

In 2018, we made a conscious and deliberate decision to focus student attention on that life journey, through a vehicle we call My Columbia College Journey



MICHAEL EDMONSON '20

([college.columbia.edu/journey](http://college.columbia.edu/journey)), a strategic planning guide that directs each student to maintain a unique, individual, personal attention to developing the attitudes, abilities, skills, perspectives and understanding that will empower success in their personal and professional lives, no matter what their path. We express that through 13 Core Competencies, which provide the structure for Journey. This guide encourages each student to approach with Beginner's Mind all parts of their individual College experience, and to recognize all of those seemingly discrete parts as connected in a self-guided and self-aware approach to building the Core Competencies.

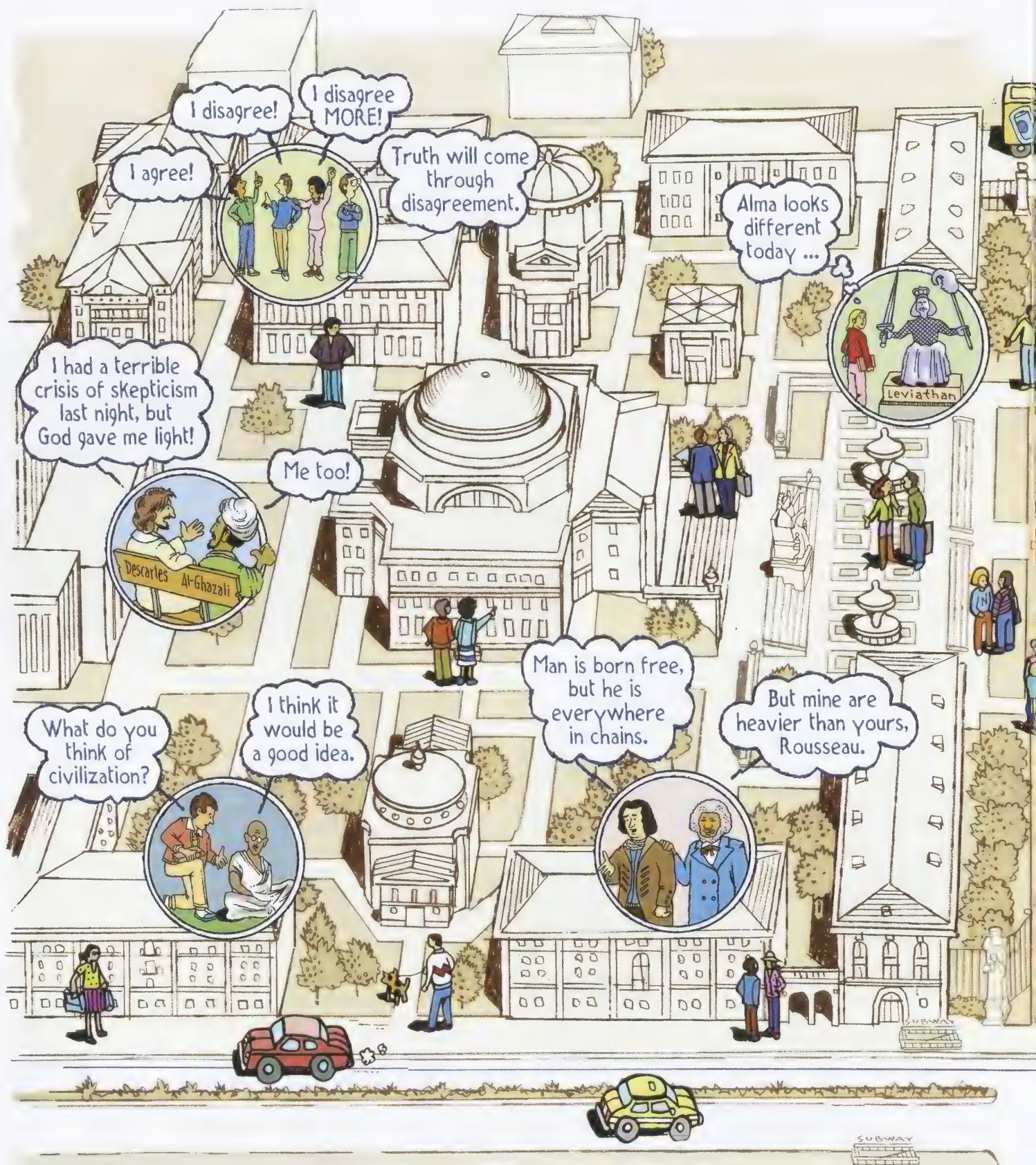
As we continue our centennial celebration and reflect on its past, present and future, and as the College continues to expand the importance of Journey, I hope that you will join me in taking a moment to reflect on your own past, present and future — wherever your journey has taken you.

James J. Valentini  
Dean



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# Around the Quads

KILLIAN YOUNG / COLUMBIA COLLEGE



**A BANNER BEARING THE NAMES OF EIGHT FEMALE-IDENTIFYING AUTHORS AND VISIONARIES** — Maya Angelou; Gloria E. Anzaldúa; Diana Chang BC'49; Zora Neale Hurston BC 1928, GSAS 1935; Toni Morrison; A. Revathi; Ntozake Shange; and Leslie Marmon Silko — is now hanging above the names of the male writers on the facade of Butler Library. The banner will be on display through December 16. Learn how the names were selected, about the first female-focused banner (hung in 1989) and more at [butlerbanner.com](http://butlerbanner.com).

## Hartman Named MacArthur Fellow

Professor of English and Comparative Literature Saidiya Hartman is one of

26 recipients of the 2019 MacArthur fellowship, given out annually by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Hartman

earned a \$625,000 “genius grant” to be distributed over the next five years. “I am delighted to receive the MacArthur. It means the world to me,” she said. “It gives me the time I need to write and think.”

Hartman is a scholar of African-American literature and cultural history. Her works, which include *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*; *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*; and most recently, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval*, explore the afterlife of slavery in modern American society.

COURTESY MACARTHUR FOUNDATION



## Sherwin Service Award

The Gerald E. Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to the College's young alumni community, was presented to Matthew Lemle Amsterdam '10, LAW'13 at the Columbia College Alumni Association's Board of Directors meeting on October 19. Amsterdam was on the Senior Fund Executive Committee, was a member of his fifth Reunion Committee and is co-chairing his 10th. He is a member of the Columbia Law School Association's Board of Directors and a chair of the Loyal Blue Society, which recognizes continued donor support toward the University.

The award is named in honor of CCAA president emeritus Gerald Sherwin '55.

## CCT Wins!

*Columbia College Today* won the Eddie Award for best full issue (Spring 2019) in the association/nonprofit, alumni/university category at the 2019 *Folio*: Eddie & Ozzie Awards on October 30. The winning issue included features on Whitney Biennial co-curator Rujeko

Hockley '05, *Captain Marvel* director Anna Boden '02, and documentary filmmakers Ric Burns '78 and James

Sanders '76, GSAPP'82.

The annual Eddie & Ozzie Awards honor excellence in editorial and design across all sectors of the magazine industry, and have been



presented by *Folio*: for more than two decades. This year, 400 winners were chosen from a field of more than 2,500 entries.

# \$3.64 Million

The eighth annual Columbia Giving Day, held on October 23, was a smashing success! Through 2,242 gifts, the College received the largest sum among all Columbia schools or institutes. All told, Columbians hit a new high, raising \$22,009,151 from 18,622 gifts. Learn more at [givingday.columbia.edu](http://givingday.columbia.edu).



# The Zoologist Who Was the World's Biggest Bat Fan

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90

For some people, bats are creepy creatures of the night that foul the world with squeaks and guano. For others, they are the alter ego of Bela Lugosi and his bloodsucking cohort.

For Karl F. Koopman '43, GSAS'50, they were his lifework and love.

Over a long, distinguished (and largely obscure) career, Koopman was one of the world's leading chiropterologists. In caves, rainforests, wildlife preserves and anywhere else he might find his quarry, he obsessively collected, studied and classified the only mammals that flap hither and yon. Koopman pored over these "flying foxes" in laboratories, published widely and held forth endlessly about them in public.

"There's been a tremendous amount of misunderstanding about bats," he said in a 1979 interview for United Press International. "I'd say they're as friendly as gerbils."



Born in Honolulu, Koopman moved with his family to California as a child and glommed onto nature with frequent visits to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. He earned a Ph.D. at Columbia with a dissertation on fruit flies; later, he turned briefly to birds and, then finally, to bats. At various times he was a biology instructor at Queens College, and was on the staffs at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History; he joined New York City's American Museum of Natural History in 1961, where he stayed for 24 years.

But Koopman didn't restrict himself to his office. Though he wasn't exactly built for fieldwork — stout and dwarfish, perhaps 5 ft. tall, with sensitive skin — he circled the globe twice in pursuit of his game. He had a penchant for the Caribbean and Latin America, gathering and scrutinizing bats in Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, the Lesser Antilles, Belize, Bolivia and Mexico.

Slowly and steadily, he acquired an international reputation. In books and some 100 scholarly articles, Koopman made major contributions to bat classification and evolution. His specialty was bat biogeography — describing how bats were distributed throughout the world and explaining how they got there.

Koopman's fascination, suggested fellow chiropterologist Thomas A. Griffiths, came from wanting to fill a scientific void: "He did something no one had ever done before — examining the regions of the earth and seeing how bats related to them. And that inspired other scientists to do the same thing." When Koopman began his research, his friend and colleague Merlin Tuttle estimated, there were approximately 850 bat species. By the time his career was over, there were around 1,300.

Colleagues who tried to trip him up on bat trivia usually failed. "But if you had him stumped," said Tuttle, "he would come back at you pretty quickly with names and terminology that would slow things down and have us pondering for a bit. We couldn't figure out if he was buffaloing us." At professional bat gatherings, Koopman would sit in the front row and invariably pose the first question, prefacing it with a high-pitched, "Weeell, it seems to me that ..."

"Send him an exotic bone," wrote author and naturalist Diane Ackerman, "and he could swiftly identify it down to the subspecies." In 1944, a little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) was found in Iceland, to which no bats are native. Years later, Reykjavik's Museum of Natural History sent Koopman the preserved specimen, hoping for an explanation. Identifying it as a North American (as opposed to European) variety, he figured that this particular gatecrasher had swooped aboard a ship at St. John's, Newfoundland, and inadvertently stowed away. After all, Koopman pointed out, there was plenty of heavy shipping between St. John's and Reykjavik during WWII.

He dealt with laymen, too. A *New York Times* reader once asked in a Q&A, "How can a bat hang upside down for long periods without damaging its brain?" Koopman replied, "This is like saying, 'How are you able to stand up and not have blood collect in your feet?'" When someone reported a 130-lb. Philippine bat with a 12-ft. wingspan, he brushed it off as a "zoological tall tale." He dismissed popular myths that bats are inordinately rabid and will fly into your hair. "I don't know how that particular superstition got started," he said.

Koopman was a dedicated scholar. In 1977, Queen Elizabeth II visited the North American Symposium on Bat



Research in Ottawa. Koopman's colleagues were atwitter. But he cared only about the proceedings. "My ancestors fought a war," he said, "so that I wouldn't have to be excited about that monarchy!"

And he had a puckish sense of bat humor. In trying to define "microbats," he proposed two types: *yangochiroptera* and *yinochiroptera*. Koopman drew the names from the Confucian doctrine of

the passive "yang" and the active "yin" — because the *yinochiroptera* had a uniquely mobile bone in its upper jaw. Once, tongue planted firmly in cheek, he said he welcomed global warming: "It extends the ranges of all those tropical bats! They'll be up in North America where I can study them more easily!"

Koopman died on the Upper West Side on September 22, 1997. Many of the

delicate techniques he used to dissect his prizes died with him. But his name lives on in the Latin classifications of various mammals, including two varieties of mice, a rat and a porcupine.

And, of course, he has a couple of bats to his nomenclatural credit: the yellow-shouldered *Sturnira koopmanhilli* and the brown fruit-eater *Koopmania concolor*. The "mania" in the latter was entirely apropos.

## Student Spotlight

### BRANCHING OUT

"I'm taking a class right now that I definitely wouldn't have thought about taking when I was a freshman: 'Reincarnation and Technology,' with Professor David Kittay [GSAS'11]. The first class on the syllabus was titled 'Disorientation,' and I've been utterly disoriented since — in a good way."

### THE PRIME VIEW

"I'm a big fan of the Milstein Center and those green comfy chairs that look out over Broadway — I've finished multiple papers there."

### ALUMNI ENCOUNTERS

"I don't think you can go to school anywhere else and walk down the street and someone who ran track in 2006 can see your backpack and go, 'Oh my God, are you on the track team?' That's not going to happen at any other school."

### A GOOD SPORT

"As an athlete, I think I'm obliged to like Dodge but also obliged to not like Dodge!"

"Outside of class, I'm an athlete — I'm a triple jumper on the track team — and I'm the co-chair for the Arab/Middle Eastern family tree in the Columbia Mentoring Initiative. I also really, really love photography — I've been doing it since I was in high school."



*"While I grew up in New Jersey, my family is originally Egyptian. This is a huge part of my identity."*

Meet women's track and field team captain **MARYAM HASSAN '20**, a Middle Eastern studies major (with a concentration in anthropology) from Cresskill, N.J.

### A SPEECH IN PRAISE OF LOVE

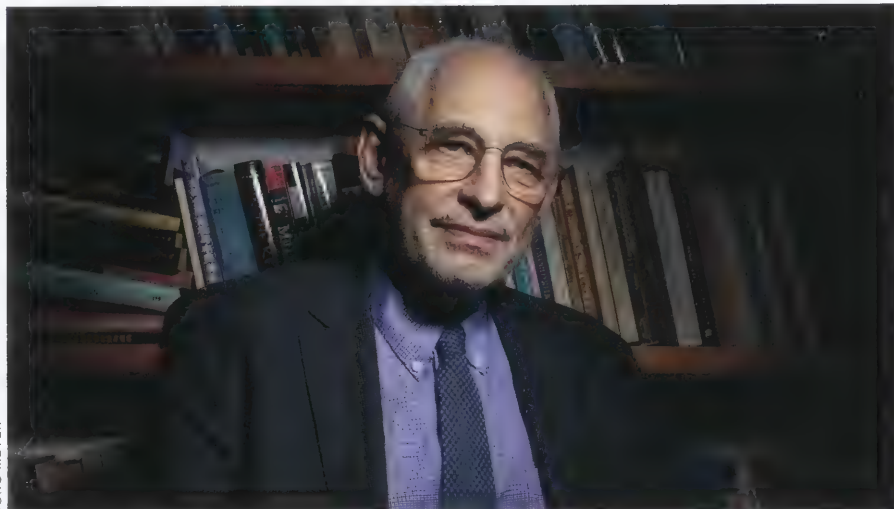
"My favorite Core reading, collectively, is *Symposium* — and not just because it's short and sweet.

You read a lot of serious texts in Lit Hum; I think being able to laugh through *Symposium* was a nice break."

### SIDE HUSTLE

"When I got here I started shooting photos for fun and then I got a job working for Athlet-ics. I've been covering home games since my sophomore year!"





## Andrew J. Nathan

By Jill C. Shomer

Andrew J. Nathan has been teaching at Columbia for nearly 50 years; as he points out, he was even born in Columbia-Presbyterian hospital. The Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science, Nathan is an expert in Chinese politics and foreign policy; he teaches students from the College, Barnard, GS, SIPA and GSAS about China, political participation, political culture and human rights.

Nathan became interested in China somewhat by accident. His father was “a spiritually questing” person who read about Zen Buddhism. As a first-year Harvard sophomore (“I was allowed to skip my freshman year — a bad idea”), Nathan needed a social science class; remembering his father’s fascination with the Orient, he signed up for “History of East Asia.”

“In 1960, that seemed very exotic,” he says. It turned out to be his favorite course.

Nathan declared a major in history with a focus on modern China, and began studying intensive Chinese — one of only a few undergraduates to invest in a seemingly useless language at a time when the United States and China had no friendly contact. Upon graduation, Nathan was awarded a fellowship to study in Hong Kong; when he returned to Harvard for a master’s in East Asian studies, his advisor suggested he

get a Ph.D. in political science. “I did definitely enjoy the study of China,” Nathan says. “But it took years of teaching for me to get into the poli sci part.”

He taught at the University of Michigan as a post-doc before being hired at Columbia in 1971. Early on in his College career, Nathan was asked to teach Contemporary Civilization. “It was a struggle at first because I hadn’t had a broad liberal arts education,” he says. But he grew to love it, and has taught it since.

Nathan has helped generations of young people to better understand China and the world they live in; he won the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in 2008. “My students have gone into teaching, into the media, into think tanks, the State Department, the CIA,” he says. (He didn’t teach Barack Obama ’83, “but I participated in a briefing for him when he was President.”) “You don’t change the world as a college professor,” he says. “But I feel like I’ve had the opportunity to say what I want to say and be listened to, and that’s been a privilege.

“Those semesters in CC when students are reading Rousseau or Nietzsche and you see them get hooked, when the conversation gets going and you can just duck under the table and let the conversation rip, that’s very cool,” Nathan adds. “The connectivity of it is extraordinarily gratifying.”

Nathan has chaired, directed and served in various leadership roles across Columbia. He is currently part of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, which facilitates teaching and research on East, Southeast and Inner Asia; and is on the board of advisors for the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, which provides interdisciplinary human rights education. ISHR’s Advocates Program brings activists from all over the world to campus in the fall semester, and Nathan welcomes them as guest speakers in his “Introduction to Human Rights” course. “Students get to see the actual people who do the work they’re studying,” he says.

Despite his deep connection to China, Nathan has been banned from entering the country since 2001, after the publication of *The Tiananmen Papers*, the book he co-edited with Perry Link. A whistleblower approached Nathan with documents exposing the political process around the 1989 Tiananmen crisis; Nathan spent several years authenticating the material and supervising the translation with his friend Link, then a professor of East Asian studies at Princeton. When the story broke it got a lot of attention — *The New York Times* ran a front-page article and Nathan appeared on *60 Minutes* — which resulted in both Nathan and Link being barred.

“Some Chinese officials have said they want to give me a visa — maybe they think it’s been long enough, or they like what I did — but they don’t dare unless someone above them takes responsibility, and that hasn’t happened,” Nathan says. “I never push it. I’m waiting for an invitation. It would be good to go and get a more tangible sense of the mood, but I can continue my work without being there in person.”

Nathan has authored more than a dozen less controversial books (most recently, 2012’s *China’s Search for Security*) and regularly publishes in academic journals. He’s the Asia/Pacific book reviewer for *Foreign Affairs*, and contributes articles to its website to help readers understand China’s point of view on subjects such as the recent protests in Hong Kong.

Outside the classroom, Nathan stays busy with his four children (son Oliver is a College senior; daughter Alexa is a Barnard grad) and one grandchild. He loves museums, and hopes to take art history courses when he retires — whenever that is. “I’m 76, but teaching is too much fun to stop now!”





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# ROAR, LION, ROAR

## Lions Pounce on Penn

*Columbia's 75th Homecoming was a sunny, rollicking game, as the Lions dominated Penn in a 44-6 win — their largest margin of victory ever in a Homecoming matchup. "We picked a good time to play our best football of the year," said Al Bagnoli, the Patricia and Shepard Alexander Head Coach of Football. As part of the festivities, the Columbia College Alumni Association held its annual gathering of food and fun, with lawn games, archery and more.*

Photos by Jenna Bascom and Columbia Athletics








## **ROAR!**

For more photos, go to  
[facebook.com/alumnicc/photos](https://facebook.com/alumnicc/photos).







LOLA

# FIREPOWER

BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11

JAMES BEARD AWARD  
WINNER **ANN KIM '95**  
IS BRINGING THE HEAT  
TO THE TWIN CITIES



KIM AT THE OVEN AT  
PIZZERIA LOLA.





**A**nn Kim '95 has made an art of playing with fire.

Over the past decade, the elemental hiss and crackle has fueled the Minneapolis chef's rise to national prominence and, earlier this year, a James Beard Award as best chef in the Midwest. It's the essential ingredient at two of her three Twin Cities restaurants: At her hand, it will make you rethink a dish as simple as roasted cauliflower and go downright swoony over a charred yet somehow still chewy pizza crust. A wood-fired oven stands literally at the center of Kim's first shop, Pizzeria Lola; its gleaming copper back appears to arriving diners more like a Richard Serra sculpture. Only after rounding a bend to sit at the bar does the open mouth reveal the flame.

"Cooking by fire, to me, is a craft," Kim told me back in July; we were sitting in a booth at Lola, just feet from the shiny hull. "It's something that you can't teach via textbook. It's a physical, visceral *something* that you feel in your body.

"We burned a lot of pizzas," Kim added. "We made a lot of *shitty* pizza before we made good pizza in this oven. We learned. And we evolved."

Part of the evolution was remaking the dough recipe she'd exactly developed in her home kitchen. "How that recipe would react and cook in a home oven that got up to 500 degrees max is very different than what happens when you get up to 900 degrees-plus. It was back to the drawing board, testing, until I found the crust that I really wanted to make."

That was in 2010, and after opening a slice shop, Hello Pizza, as her sophomore venture, Kim returned to the fiery theme in November 2016, with Young Joni. The inventive

pizzas-and-more menu leaned into her Korean heritage and relied on the alchemy created by cooking in that same style of wood-fired oven (two, in fact) and over a wood-burning grill. Young Joni was named the *Star Tribune* 2017 Restaurant of the Year, one of *GQ's* Best New Restaurants in America and one of *Travel & Leisure's* leading reasons for food lovers to visit the Twin Cities. (Plus it's Vikings receiver Stefon Diggs's favorite restaurant — no small endorsement in the city of the Minneapolis Miracle.) Young Joni's success also cemented Kim's role in what's been widely touted as a regional dining revolution.

"It's really about understanding fire and how to manipulate it," Kim said. "It's not autopilot — we're not going to turn up the convection oven and just go. You have to focus, pay attention, be patient. And you have to practice. Sometimes the fire is going to have its own mind and you have to work around that. But that to me is exciting."

My lunch with Kim had been in the works for months — nearly moved so she could attend an invitation-only, wood-fire cooking event in Ireland, then back on again. Arriving early, I took time to drive the neighborhood, technically the outskirts of Minneapolis, where the city meets the friendly suburb of Edina. But "neighborhood" was the word for it. The side streets were primarily residential, and even the main road that Pizzeria Lola fronts was house-lined and sleepy; another 10 minutes passed before I reached a typical small-town cluster of retail, coffee shops and eateries.

THE RESTAURANT PROJECT





THE BIBIM GRAIN SALAD FROM YOUNG JONI.



THE RESTAURANT PROJECT

Kim later told me that her and her husband Conrad Leifur's first home was less than a mile away. "We were walking our dog and we saw a for-lease sign. It used to be a local convenience store; we said, 'This is it.'"

Location, as I came to learn, was an essential part of Kim's vision. When dreaming about what she wanted in a place of her own, she thought back to her College days: "One thing I really missed in Minneapolis was pizza — and the other was a restaurant that felt like home. Because being in New York, you could go to any corner and there was always a small little neighborhood joint. Here, it was lots of chains. I wanted a place where I'd love my surroundings, love the people that I worked with and could get to know my guests as family."

Walking in the door at Lola (named, incidentally, for Kim's sweet-faced Weimaraner), I certainly felt the warmth of a small-town spot. The decor was simple and cheerful, lots of wood and recycled light fixtures. A back-lit, black-lettered specials sign had the look of something pulled from a roadside ice cream stand. Strips of smiling and goofy faces, taken in the restaurant's photo booth, lined a side wall.

Kim arrived a few minutes after me — voice bright, with a hint of Minnesota accent — and ordered up a heap of food: the aforementioned cauliflower, a matchstick zucchini special and meatballs that on another day could have been the main event. There were also two dizzyingly good pizzas: the Xerxes (a Greek-y pizza with feta, sautéed spinach and Marcona almonds) and the Korean BBQ (beef short ribs, scallions, soy-chili vinaigrette). The latter is their bestseller, a one-week special that was brought back for good after bummed-out customers kept calling to complain.

As we talked, I found Kim to be exuberant, sincere, uncensored. I was reminded that this is the woman who several years ago went viral with a tweet declaring, "Fuck fear, lesson learned" — a reference to how she'd nearly launched her career with the "safe choice" of franchising a Jimmy John's sandwich shop. This is also the woman who opened her James Beard acceptance speech by tearfully admitting that she'd just come back from the restroom, where she'd taken off her Spanx.

In fact, Kim seems so comfortable with who she is that it's hard to imagine that her younger self struggled with expectations that she'd pursue a different path — one that ended in a job with letters after it, "you know, Ph.D., M.D., J.D." She characterizes hers as "a stereotypical immigrant story — the family moves here, they want their children to have a better life." But the particulars of her experience are quick to emerge: Her family came to Apple Valley, Minn., from Korea when Kim was 4. They didn't have a lot of money; her father had been an accountant before the move, but here worked in a bottle factory and, later, for the post office; her mother (the "Young" of Young Joni) was a housekeeper in a nursing home.

By her own account, Kim was always a creative person, but felt repressed growing up; she was drawn to Columbia by the Core Curriculum and because it was the kind of good school her parents wanted her to attend. But New York also spoke to her secret ambition to be an actress. After graduation, she briefly dabbled in law firm jobs before returning to Minnesota, where she could manage the cost of living while wading into the theater scene. As soon as she was cast in a full-time acting gig, she quit her job with

## "AS A CHEF, I'VE FOUND MY CALLING AND THIS IS MY EXPRESSION. THIS IS MY BEST SELF."

the general counsel of a small company. Her parents found out only after calling there one day to speak with her.

"They were really disappointed; they sort of disowned me for a period of time. They really thought that I was destroying my life, that there was no future in it." She again kept it to herself when she set her sights on becoming a chef.

Today, Kim says, that's all far in the past. Her parents now do drive-bys to see if her restaurants are busy. "I was always fighting who I really was," Kim muses, "what my soul really felt, versus what I felt like I had to do and had to be. And now, as a chef, I've found my calling and this is my expression. This is my best self."

Growing up in Minnesota in the 1970s, Kim recalls, there wasn't a lot of diversity in the food at the grocery store. What couldn't be bought had to be made by her mother and maternal grandmother. At a young age, Kim was helping to make kimchi (they brined cabbage in the family kiddie pool to make batches large enough to last the winter). In the summer, she tended a garden planted with Korean vegetable seeds that her mother had smuggled in. While Kim never dreamed of becoming a chef per se, she always loved to entertain and have people over. "I'm such an active go-go-go person, but when we cook together and gather people and slow down, it always gave me a lot of peace and satisfaction."

Cut to 2009. It was the recession, and Leifur had recently lost his job in finance; she was unhappy and looking for more agency in her work than acting allowed. "We said, let's do something that feeds us emotionally, where we wake up and



we're grateful," Kim recalled. "Conrad's the one who said, 'You're an amazing cook. Why don't we open a restaurant?'"

Then came the near-contract to open a Jimmy John's, and their decision to take the leap to open the pizza place of their dreams. Kim spent countless hours in her home kitchen developing her ideal crust — for her, the key to a great pie. She did a deep dive into artisan bread-making books, visited crust-obsessed corners of the internet and kept records of every trial, noting the relative humidity and outside temperature, and how it reacted with her dough. (Kim is by her own admission a recovering perfectionist.)

When Kim realized she'd need professional help, she enrolled in an intensive course at Tony Gemignani's International School of Pizza, in San Francisco. ("I didn't know it at

**KIM DESIGNED WHAT SHE CALLS "A NEO-NEAPOLITAN PIE," WITH A CRUST THAT COMBINED ATTRIBUTES OF HER HOLY TRINITY: NEAPOLITAN (SOFT AND BUBBLY), CLASSIC NEW YORK (FOLDABLE YET CRISPY) AND NEW HAVEN-STYLE (CHARRED AND COAL-FIRED).**

the time, but if you want to learn about every style of pizza, he is kind of the man," Kim says.) That's where she fell in love with fire, and returned for several apprenticeships. "There was a lot of R&D," says Gemignani. "Ann was very particular; she would drill me. She knew what she wanted, and when we'd try something she'd say — 'nah, it's too soft, it's too wet, that's not it.' It wasn't easy. But sometimes the best students are the

ones who are trying to achieve greatness." Ultimately, Kim designed what she calls "a neo-Neapolitan pie," with a crust that combined attributes of her holy trinity: Neapolitan (soft and bubbly), classic New York (foldable yet crispy) and New Haven-style (charred and coal-fired).

When Pizzeria Lola opened in late 2010, Kim was kneading all of the dough herself; she devised a menu that was simple, seasonal and pizza-focused. In a last-minute twist, she experimented with Korean flavors — thus was born the kimchi-topped Lady ZaZa. It was a natural combination for Kim, who'd added the fermented favorite to pizza (and every other meal) as a kid. For customers, it was a radical departure. "A lot of people said, 'We don't know what kimchi is,' and I always replied, 'If you don't like it you don't have to pay for it, but give it a go if you're curious.' I kind of chuckle to think that a lot of customers' first exposure to kimchi is on our pizza, but if that expands their horizons and makes them want to explore Korean cuisine, or other cuisines they're unfamiliar with, then hey, that's awesome."

Early success for Lola came from word of mouth. Then, in 2012, *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* came calling. "The first question I asked was, 'Do we have to close?'" Kim says with a laugh. "All I could think was, we need butts in seats, we need to pay this restaurant off." Knowing when the episode would air, they timed a change in their schedule and offered lunch for the first time the next day. "Thirty minutes before we opened, we had a line out the door," Kim recalls. "It was nonstop, just packed, until we closed. It was bonkers."

Looking back, Kim says they turned inexperience into an asset: "We were open to any sort of possibility because we didn't know that you 'shouldn't do that.'" But since then she has also learned: "If your intention is there and you listen to your gut, it usually turns out right."

Back at Lola, shortly before our pizzas arrived, a couple stopped by the table to introduce themselves — "We saw you and couldn't help ourselves," the woman said. She asked about the "epic dinner" Kim had posted on Instagram the night before, and Kim easily fell into a few minutes of chat (as it happened, the dinner was a home-grilled affair by friend and fellow James Beard winner Alex Roberts, to celebrate Kim's award). "We're such fans," the woman said by way of goodbye. "We love everything you do."

"Everything," at this stage, includes three restaurants; a fourth is on the way. Kim leads the culinary side of the house while Leifur is CFO (they founded parent company Vestalia Hospitality in 2015). "I love the act of inspiration, creating things and coming up with ideas and places where people can gather," Kim said. "If there's something missing — if I say, 'I wish this existed here' — then something starts to bubble up. 'Is anyone doing this? Why isn't anyone doing this? We should have this.'"

She walked me through some of her a-ha moments: an old hardware store struck her as the place for a classic New York slice joint — what became the playful Hello, Pizza in 2013. (The vibe was evident even under construction, thanks to the giant Lionel Richie banner in the window.) Young Joni came



PIZZERIA LOLA



from a visit to Northeast Minneapolis, an up-and-coming, artist-driven part of the city. Kim envisioned a neighborhood restaurant like Lola, “but one that was a little different, a little more sophisticated, a little sexier.” The result was a handsome, wood-beamed space that conjures what master food writer Adam Sachs termed a “Korean-Midwestern hygge”; Kim has said that she wants diners to feel like they’re getting wrapped in a bear hug.

Kim gets atmosphere, according to *Star Tribune* restaurant critic Rick Nelson. “I think that comes from being in the theater,” he says. “Her places aren’t showy, but they feel special. She also gets hospitality in a way that I think a lot of people here don’t.”

He noted that at Young Joni, a lot of the seats are around counters or large communal tables that encourage sharing and conversation. “Minnesotans are a very stand-offish kind of people,” Nelson, a lifelong resident, says with a laugh. “We’re polite, but we’re very particular about personal space. At Young Joni alone, Ann has taught people, it’s really *fun* to go out and sit next to a stranger and get to know them and talk about food and drink and the city and world.”

In the bigger picture, Kim is in fact contributing to an evolution in Twin Cities dining culture. It goes beyond cultivating a more social experience; it’s also an expansion of tastes. What many think of as traditional Minnesota fare — hotdish and tater tots, or Scandinavian fare like lutefisk or lefse — is no longer the dominant mode. Kim credits the change in part to a diversifying population: “People are looking for food that not only challenges them but is also just *good*. It’s no longer about saying this is ‘ethnic cuisine.’ It’s just, this is the food that represents who we are as a community, now, in this present time.”

The meat-and-potatoes DNA still exists here, says Nelson, who has a long view after more than 25 years in the business. “But the dining public is way more adventurous than it used to be, and people are willing to spend money in ways they didn’t before.” Kim was among the chefs he cited in a recent, sweeping overview that declared the Twin Cities’ ascension to a three-star — “highly recommended” — town. “In the last seven or eight years there has been enormous growth in the number of exceptional and interesting and diverse restaurants here,” he says. “I think it’s become one of the most exciting places to dine in the United States.”

Kim told me life has changed since the James Beard award. “I wish I had 24 more hours in a day. Right now it’s about deciding which offers and invitations are real opportunities, in line with our vision and values and goals.”



THE RESTAURANT PROJECT

She is adamant about not wanting to be pigeon-holed, and indeed, an obsession with handmade Oaxacan tortillas is at the heart of her upcoming not-quite-Mexican enterprise. “My food is an amalgam of what feels authentic to me — my palate, my soul, my story, my history. And once you try it you can decide what it means to you.”

She recalled her mother at the hearth, “throwing a Japanese sweet potato on the coals on a winter day and us peeling it and eating it like candy. Those are the flavor memories I have. We grew up with very little money, but her food was always there for us, always comforting.”

“I know it sounds fluffy,” she added, “but I really do think that’s why we’re successful. It comes not from a place of pedigree or experience, but from the heart. And I think we as a community and as a nation need to do more of this. Share. Come to the table.” Kim gestured at Lola’s photo wall: “We have a family that has rows and rows of pictures from when they were pregnant to birth, and now that child is older. To me those are connections of celebration and memories, and if you can bring a little comfort on a bad day — there aren’t a lot of places where you can do that anymore. If I can provide that for people, that would be my biggest accomplishment.”



THE RESTAURANT PROJECT

#### HOT STUFF!

We’ve got the recipe for Pizzeria Lola’s Roasted Cauliflower. Find it now at [college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/lola](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/lola).



HOW CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION LAID THE  
FOUNDATION FOR THE CORE CURRICULUM

# FirstClass

BY THE EDITORS OF CCT







The view from  
Alma Mater in 1919.

IMAGES COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

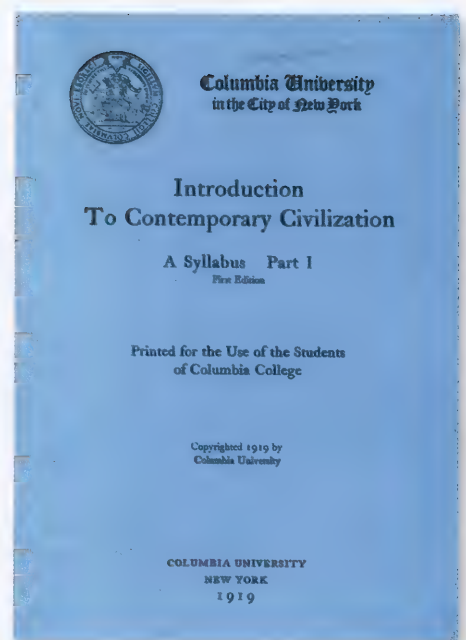
**P**lato versus Aristotle on the *polis*. Augustine versus Aquinas on God and the soul. Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau thrashing out the leaders and the led. Darwin finding our place among the beasts.

This is the stuff of "Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West," aka Contemporary Civilization, aka CC. For the last 100 years, every Columbia College student has alternately sweated through, fretted over, grappled with and (often enough) reveled in this unique required backbone of a College education. It is also, significantly, the first pillar in what became the Core Curriculum. Its success laid the foundation upon which first Literature Humanities, in 1937, and later Art Humanities and Music Humanities would be built. It both offered a model for how those classes might be conducted and inspired an educational purpose apart from pre-professional training: to equip students with intellectual awareness and habits of mind that would be valuable throughout their lives.

And yet, CC's founders never imagined their work would accomplish anything so sweeping as that. So what exactly were their ambitions? How and why was Contemporary Civilization created, and what was it like when it began?

It turns out that for all the continuity and commonality CC has provided through the years, the course has traveled far from its original design. Students have read primary texts in full only since 1968, spending bleary-eyed nights with works like Machiavelli's *The Prince* and Descartes's *Discourse on the Method*. For roughly 20 years before that, CC's raw material was found in two Columbia-published casebooks ("The Red Books") that summarized, wove together and offered excerpts from seminal thinkers. Both of these iterations of the class would be nearly unrecognizable to its earliest enrollees.

That's because when CC was unveiled in 1919, immediately following the First World War, it had a highly specific purpose and what was then a radically different approach to undergraduate education. It was meant to instill in the College's first post-bellum classes a fundamental awareness of their essential





place in the modern human race — the better to help them forestall another global conflagration and to prepare them in case one did explode.

And yet, however foreign it may be to today's eyes, the embryonic CC of a century ago foreshadowed the CC of 2019. From the beginning, the course has sought to introduce young minds to some of humankind's most essential, intractable questions and dilemmas.

## TURNING BOYS INTO MEN

CC was the byproduct of the unprecedented carnage and social upheaval of the Great War. Millions were killed. Empires fell. A generation was strangled. Some 200 uniformed alumni from across the University died. When the smoke literally cleared on November 11, 1918, "the war to end all wars" was not just a catchphrase.

The University had done its part. In 1917, Columbia had introduced the Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.), a government-sponsored experiment in educating citizen-soldiers that essentially consisted of uniformed students taking regular courses. Part of the instruction was a class called "War Aims" that was designed, by one account, to promote "understanding the worth of the cause for which one is fighting."

But when the guns stopped firing, an urgent question arose among some faculty members: What do we do now? Among the principals who took part in the discussion was the new dean of the College, Herbert Hawkes, whose 25-year tenure went on to be defined by his commitment to a general liberal arts education. Hawkes believed that issues of peace were vastly more complicated than those of war, and could also be more important as a field of instruction; he saw an opportunity — even a responsibility — to offer a course that equipped students with the tools to "participate in national affairs with clear judgment and intelligence."

And so the College faculty determined that "War Aims" should yield to an undefined yet mandated course that would consider the modern world.

This metamorphosis, constituting the first step toward Contemporary Civilization, took place during crucial junctures in both College and University history. At the time, many elite colleges still doubled as finishing schools that would somehow "turn boys into men." Scholarship often came second to the hazy notion of building character.

But character couldn't always be built. And Columbia's imperious president, Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 — whose tenure lasted from 1902 to 1945 — cared little for budding maturity. Rather, he was concerned with molding his growing university into a grown-up, graduate-focused, research-oriented colossus. Indeed, "Nicholas Miraculous" once accused undergraduates of "intellectual dawdling." Under his (unrealized) "Columbia Plan" of 1905, College students could enter the University's professional or graduate programs after their sophomore year. As late



Dean Herbert Hawkes was instrumental in the founding of CC.

**DEAN HERBERT HAWKES BELIEVED THAT ISSUES OF PEACE WERE VASTLY MORE COMPLICATED THAN THOSE OF WAR, AND COULD ALSO BE MORE IMPORTANT AS A FIELD OF INSTRUCTION.**

as 1917, Butler was still proposing a separate two-year junior college for precisely this purpose.

Columbia College, meanwhile, was suffering from benign neglect. It was not until 1907, a full decade after the move from West 49th Street to Morning-side Heights, that the College got its own building in the form of Hamilton Hall. Its first dean, John Howard Van Amringe CC 1860, was very much of the "boys into men" school of thought. Still, he sometimes despaired of scholarly standards. "The present undergraduate course of study [is] not consistent with the true purpose of an academic curriculum," he complained in his 1904 annual report.

It was against this knotty institutional background that Contemporary Civilization was hatched. Just two months after the Armistice, on January 20, 1919, the

The end of WWI raised questions about peacetime education at the College.



College faculty resolved that a course called Contemporary Civilization would now be a freshman requirement. (The name itself was punted around a bit; other candidates were "Contemporary History," "The World We Live In" and, naturally, "Peace Issues.") CC even won the endorsement of Butler, who shook off his lack of interest in undergraduates enough to approve of their taking a wider view of the world around them; a *Jester* cartoon depicted him deploying the new course as a weapon against Bolshevism.

As September and the new academic year drew nearer, the program rounded into shape. Fifteen instructors, drawn from the departments of history, economics, philosophy and government, would do the teaching. Professor of Philosophy John J. Coss — the first and only director of CC until his death in 1941 — boldly predicted that the cross-disciplinary nature of the course would even benefit its preceptors, thanks to the need to teach outside their specialty. "The staff will be educating itself as well as instructing the students," Coss wrote in the July 1919 *Columbia University Quarterly* — in the process broadening their own minds, or as he put it, "break[ing] down those 'idea-tight' compartments in which learning too often isolates itself."

With an average of 15 students, each section was small enough to be conducted as a discussion. Sections would meet five times a week, 9–10 a.m., complete with daily quizzes. The 1919–20 "College Announcement" made clear the ultimate goal: "To inform the student of the more outstanding and influential factors of his physical and social environment. By thus giving the student objective material on which to base his own judgment, it is thought he will be aided in an intelligent participation in the civilization of his own day."



Professor of Philosophy  
John J. Coss was the  
first director of CC.

#### NOT THE SAME OLD THING

The first-year students drew upon a primer of some 450 pages that was prepared especially for their new class. It was *Human Traits and Their Social Significance*, written during summer 1919 by campus philosopher Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920. Not yet 23, he wouldn't earn his Ph.D. for another year, yet he was charged with writing a seminal book. "To my surprise," he recalled, "I found myself under forced draft ... [writing] a book for the section of the course for which, apparently, no viable text existed."

Edman's tome offered such heady chapters as "The Demand for Privacy and Individuality," "The Development of the 'Self,'" "Art and the Aesthetic Experience" and "Morals and Moral Valuation." It was an audacious, broad-ranging and, in many respects, idiosyncratic effort. The first two weeks of the very first incarnation of Contemporary Civilization were devoted to discussing the physical features of planet Earth and the natural resources of its major countries.

Other volumes written by College faculty and graduates — many of them written specifically for CC — soon supplemented Edman's. Among these were *Man and Civilization* by anthropologist John Storck CC 1922, GSAS 1929, which influenced the class's growing tendency to look further into the past in order to understand the present; and *The Making of the Modern Mind* by Professor of Philosophy John Herman Randall Jr. CC 1918, GSAS 1922.





"These texts were not easy reading," wrote J.W. ("Wim") Smit, who famously taught all four of the basic Core Curriculum courses. "The first CC students worked hard. The sheer mass of problems thrown at them was daunting, involving much more than a passing acquaintance with European and American history, social psychology, world geography, philosophy, economics and politics."

Despite the burden, the College's charges seemed to respond. Just six weeks into the fall semester of the foundational year of 1919, Coss offered a glowing assessment in the *Columbia University Quarterly*: "It is not too early to state that even the most sanguine advocates of this innovation in freshman education are surprised by the success." He credited the major part of the success to the fact that the students liked the material, adding: "As one rather clever freshman put it, 'I like this course because it is new and my professor is still interested in it; he is not just going over the same old thing again.'"

## A TECTONIC SHIFT

Coss praised the "unusually competent group of men" who were teaching this strange new construct. But his most personal thoughts were reserved for the hundreds of teenagers who were actually taking it. Among

these were such CC 1923 legends as composer Richard Rodgers, Oscar-winning screenwriter Sidney Buchman, humorist Corey Ford and philosopher Mortimer Adler, who developed his own concepts of canonical texts that were eventually introduced to St. John's College in Annapolis.

"[A] reason for the success of the course which must not be overlooked," wrote Coss, "is to be sought in the very nature of the freshman class, which is unusually intelligent and mature. The maturity doubtless comes in part from the four years that have just passed. The war and its issues have made even boys thoughtful, and the social unrest which has come with peace has intensified reflections."

Contemporary Civilization was on its way. Through word of mouth, speeches at academic conferences, attention in scholarly journals and general press coverage, the news about CC spread. Shortly before Christmas 1919, Hawkes estimated that more than 100 colleges and schools across the nation had requested detailed information about it. By 1921, *Spectator* was calling CC "famous" and noted that Hawkes was getting about 10 letters of inquiry per week. "Rutgers College has adopted the Columbia syllabus," *Spec* wrote, "and Yale, Dartmouth, Princeton, Chicago, and Johns

Hopkins have worked out courses quite similar to Columbia's."

The University published a summary of the CC experiment in 1920 as *Introduction to Contemporary Civilization: A Syllabus*. "At 121 pages, followed by 32 pages of statistics," wrote Thomas Paul Bonfiglio in *Why Is English Literature?* (2013), "this may be a candidate for the longest course syllabus in the country." The whole notion of CC itself, Bonfiglio wrote, con-

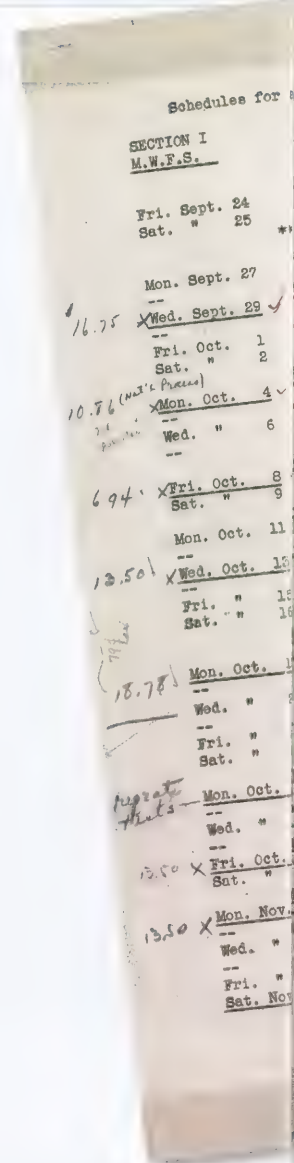
**THE WHOLE NOTION OF CC ITSELF, THOMAS PAUL BONFIGLIO WROTE, CONSTITUTED "A TECTONIC SHIFT IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION."**

stituted "a tectonic shift in the foundations of university education." That shift, however, was not a matter of drilling the thoughts of the many names that adorn the facades of Butler Library into undergraduate heads. Instead, this was a matter of abandoning classi-



CCT ARCHIVES

Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920 wrote the book — literally — on CC; his was the first text used for the course.





| HUMANITIES A                          |  | First Semester, 1937-38         |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| SECTIONS III & IV                     |  | QUIZZES                         |  |
| M.W.Th. F.                            |  |                                 |  |
| Th. Sept. 23                          |  |                                 |  |
| Fri. Sept. 24                         |  |                                 |  |
| --                                    |  |                                 |  |
| **                                    |  |                                 |  |
| HOMER                                 |  |                                 |  |
| Mon. Sept. 27                         |  | ILIAD, Bks. I-XII               |  |
| Wed. Sept. 29                         |  | ILIAD, Bks. XIII-XXIV           |  |
| Th. " 30                              |  | HERODOTUS, Bks. I, II           |  |
| Fri. Oct. 1                           |  | THUCYDIDES, Bks. I, II, VI, VII |  |
| --                                    |  |                                 |  |
| **                                    |  |                                 |  |
| Mon. Oct. 4                           |  |                                 |  |
| Wed. " 6                              |  |                                 |  |
| Th. " 7                               |  |                                 |  |
| Fri. Oct. 8                           |  |                                 |  |
| --                                    |  |                                 |  |
| **                                    |  |                                 |  |
| Mon. Oct. 11                          |  |                                 |  |
| Wed. Oct. 13                          |  |                                 |  |
| Th. " 14                              |  |                                 |  |
| Fri. " 15                             |  |                                 |  |
| --                                    |  |                                 |  |
| **                                    |  |                                 |  |
| S. SOPHOCLES, EURIPIDES, ARISTOPHANES |  | AGAMEMNON                       |  |
| Mon. Oct. 18                          |  |                                 |  |
| Wed. " 20                             |  |                                 |  |
| Th. " 21                              |  |                                 |  |
| Fri. " 22                             |  |                                 |  |
| --                                    |  |                                 |  |
| **                                    |  |                                 |  |
| Mon. Oct. 25                          |  | OEDIPUS REX                     |  |
| Wed. " 27                             |  |                                 |  |
| Th. " 28                              |  |                                 |  |
| Fri. Oct. 29                          |  |                                 |  |
| --                                    |  |                                 |  |
| **                                    |  |                                 |  |
| Mon. Nov. 1                           |  | THE FROGS                       |  |
| Wed. " 3                              |  |                                 |  |
| Th. " 4                               |  |                                 |  |
| Fri. Nov. 5                           |  | REVIEW                          |  |
| --                                    |  |                                 |  |
| **                                    |  |                                 |  |

| Schedules for all sections |  | HUMANITIES A-2 |  | Second Semester, 1938. |  |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|--|------------------------|--|
| SECTION I                  |  | SECTION II     |  | SECTIONS III & IV      |  |
| M. W. F. S.                |  | M. Tu. W. F.   |  | M. W. Th. F.           |  |
| Wed. Feb. 2                |  | Wed. Feb. 2    |  | Wed. Feb. 2            |  |
| Fri. Feb. 4                |  | Fri. Feb. 4    |  | Th. " 3                |  |
| Sat. " 5                   |  | Sat. " 5       |  | Fri. Feb. 4            |  |
| --                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| **                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| Mon. Feb. 7                |  | Mon. Feb. 7    |  | Mon. Feb. 7            |  |
| Wed. Feb. 9                |  | Tu. " 8        |  | Wed. Feb. 9            |  |
| Fri. " 11                  |  | Wed. Feb. 9    |  | Th. " 10               |  |
| Sat. " 12                  |  | Fri. " 11      |  | Fri. " 11              |  |
| --                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| **                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| Mon. Feb. 14               |  | Mon. Feb. 14   |  | Mon. Feb. 14           |  |
| Wed. Feb. 16               |  | Tu. " 15       |  | Wed. Feb. 16           |  |
| Fri. " 18                  |  | Wed. Feb. 16   |  | Th. " 17               |  |
| Sat. " 19                  |  | Fri. " 18      |  | Fri. " 18              |  |
| --                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| **                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| Mon. Feb. 21               |  | Mon. Feb. 21   |  | Mon. Feb. 21           |  |
| Wed. " 23                  |  | --(Holiday)    |  | Wed. " 23              |  |
| Fri. Feb. 25               |  | Wed. " 23      |  | Th. " 24               |  |
| Sat. " 26                  |  | Fri. Feb. 25   |  | Fri. Feb. 25           |  |
| --                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| **                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| Mon. Feb. 28               |  | Mon. Feb. 28   |  | Mon. Feb. 28           |  |
| Wed. Mar. 2                |  | Tu. Mar. 1     |  | Wed. Mar. 2            |  |
| Fri. Mar. 4                |  | Wed. Mar. 2    |  | Th. " 3                |  |
| Sat. " 5                   |  | Fri. Mar. 4    |  | Fri. Mar. 4            |  |
| --                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| **                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| Mon. Mar. 7                |  | Mon. Mar. 7    |  | Mon. Mar. 7            |  |
| Wed. Mar. 9                |  | Tu. " 8        |  | Wed. Mar. 9            |  |
| Fri. Mar. 11               |  | Wed. Mar. 9    |  | Th. " 10               |  |
| Sat. " 12                  |  | Fri. Mar. 11   |  | Fri. Mar. 11           |  |
| --                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| **                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| Mon. Mar. 14               |  | Mon. Mar. 14   |  | Mon. Mar. 14           |  |
| Wed. Mar. 16               |  | Tu. Mar. 15    |  | Wed. Mar. 16           |  |
| Fri. Mar. 18               |  | Wed. Mar. 16   |  | Th. " 17               |  |
| Sat. " 19                  |  | Fri. Mar. 18   |  | Fri. Mar. 18           |  |
| --                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |
| **                         |  | --             |  | --                     |  |

Students are urged to begin the reading of the two longest assignments, Don Quixote and Tom Jones, considerably in advance of the dates assigned for the quizzes on them. It is suggested that the reading of the former be started immediately at the beginning of the course, and of the latter immediately after the mid-term examination.

cal learning, including the reading of "dead" languages like Greek and Latin, and yanking undergraduates into an urgent, present-day life.

Not everyone on campus was enamored. Some faculty said the course was unteachable, or worried that it would serve as an alternative rather than an enticement to deeper scholarly studies. But the balance in favor of CC — which by the mid-1920s was ranked by graduating seniors as the most valuable class at Columbia — far outweighed any skepticism. Contemporary Civilization would gradually, and inevitably, make its mark. As founding figure Edman himself put it, "The incoming freshmen had the sense of participating in a new and exciting educational adventure ... Within a year or two Columbia College seemed always to have had a course in CC."

What's more, although no one planned it that way, Contemporary Civilization — and the wider Core Curriculum that followed — gave Columbia College something it had never quite had before: a unique intellectual and even institutional identity. Change was in the air, and on the heels of CC began the shift in how humanities were taught, starting with an honors course that emphasized reading classics in translation, without secondary sources — the predecessor to Literature Humanities. By 1947, the four main pillars of the Core had been established.

Indeed, as philosophy professor Justus Buchler GSAS'39 wrote in 1954, reflecting on CC for an essay composed for the University's bicentennial, "The year 1919 can be justly regarded as marking the actual birth of the new Columbia College."

CC provided a model for the course that became Literature Humanities, introduced in 1937.





MASCARI AT  
BLUELAND'S  
WAREHOUSE IN  
NEWARK, N.J.





# THE ECO ENTREPRENEUR

**JOHN A. MASCARI '08 AIMS TO  
MAKE YOUR CLEANERS GREENER**

**BY YELENA SHUSTER '09**

**J**ohn A. Mascari '08 was 7 years old when he stopped eating his buffalo wing mid-bite.

He noticed what looked like a vein and thought about the lion posters and bison wallpaper he saw every night before bed, and about the summer camp he attended that was on the same property as a cow farm. That night, to the consternation of his meat-eating Italian household, Mascari became the first in his suburban Buffalo community to stop eating all meat and seafood. (This was the '90s.) It was social suicide. (This was Buffalo.)

Like many of us, Mascari lost some of his idealistic resolve as he grew up. But a few years ago, with Earth burning, glaciers melting and oceans choking on plastic, Mascari found his thoughts returning to his childhood commitment. Already an entrepreneur, he didn't just start composting or bringing a tote bag to the grocery store — he went all in. From his home in Boulder, surrounded by majestic mountains, Mascari made a new pact: his next business would be devoted to helping the environment. You could even say he's making up for lost time. Because nearly three decades after his first pact, he has resolved to rid the world of plastic — starting with your cleaning supplies.

Eight months ago, Mascari and co-founder Sarah Pajji Yoo debuted their eco-venture Blueland to much fanfare. The online company launched with \$3 million in venture capital (Justin Timberlake is an investor), won the Harvard Business School Global Alumni New Venture Competition and was featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Fast Company* and *Vogue*. In September, Blueland appeared on

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER**



ABC's *Shark Tank* and landed a deal with investor Kevin O'Leary, leading to a valuation of \$9 million.

The winning pitch? Instead of buying a new bottle of Windex every time you run out, you have one "Forever" bottle you refill with just-add-water cleaning tablets that clock in at a mere \$2 each.

The ambitious goal is to eliminate single-use plastic while reducing carbon emissions, as the tablets are 300 times lighter to ship than conventional equivalents. And that's just to start. Mascari wants to transform the entire \$60 billion cleaning supply industry so it's non-toxic, waste-free and still profitable.

"The world is in crisis mode," Mascari says, his baritone (with a hint of upstate New York) filling the room. "I want Blueland to be a definitive case study about how to build a business that thinks first about the environment, and is still more successful than any business that's come before it."

If Mascari sounds confident, it might be because he already hit the startup jackpot once before. His first business was inspired by his then-pregnant sister's difficulty finding a balance of nutrients in her diet. Fresh out of Harvard Business School, at only 27 years old, Mascari created Bundle Organics, the first line of non-GMO, vitamin-fortified, pasteurized juices designed for pregnant women.

Bundle was Mascari's first experience with building a supply chain: the manufacturing, packaging and delivery process that transforms an idea into a viable product. It took him a relentless pavement-pounding year to convince his preferred supplier (whose other clients

were giants like Pepsi and Coke) to take a chance on an unproven startup.

Lifestyle influencer Whitney Port — a Bundle consumer and fan whom Mascari recruited as the company's chief brand director — witnessed this tenacity firsthand. "John has the ability to redirect when people say no," Port says. "He will somehow creatively turn it into a yes. He's always trying to figure out ways around roadblocks."

His persistence paid off. Bundle made it to national retail shelves, including Target and buybuyBaby. Four years after launching, Mascari sold Bundle to natural product powerhouse 1908 Brands. Mascari can't reveal the dollar amount, but more important than the money was finding the right mission-based partner. "When I sold Bundle, I was deliberate in finding it a very eco-focused home," he says. "There were other potential investors, but I loved knowing that the business would be joining a company with environmentalism at its core."

**T**he inspiration for Blueland started with a close look at a bottle of Windex. Turns out the ingredients are 97 percent water and only 3 percent active cleaning agent. This "seemed bananas" to someone with Mascari's beverage background. Why ship a product that's mostly water around the world when you can just use the tap and reduce your carbon footprint and operating costs?

After realizing the water ratio applied to most cleaning supplies, Mascari and Paiji Yoo — who met at Harvard — recruited chemist Syed Naqvi from non-toxic cleaning giant Method to join the founding team as their head of development. Blueland launched one year later, just in time for Earth Day 2019.

As CEO, Paiji Yoo is the face of the brand, handling marketing, public relations and big-picture strategy. As COO, Mascari is its legs, keeping the day-to-day operations running. During the *Shark Tank* taping, Paiji Yoo and Naqvi pitched the concept while Mascari sat in a conference room with all of his spreadsheets in case they needed to call him with a question.

"Startups are all about operating effectively in a resource-constrained environment. There is no one better to have in the trenches than John," Paiji Yoo says. "He is really running all things: manufacturing, sourcing, warehouse and fulfillment. And our partners are all across the country — he will fly there and fix any problems himself."

In fact, Blueland's press-friendly launch date wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Mascari's sleeves-up ethos. The weekend before, Mascari learned the branded tablet wrappers wouldn't arrive in time to make their deadline. That night, he booked the last flight out to the manufacturer in Florida, where he hand-stickered 3,000 tablets.

Similarly, when there's an unexpected spike in sales, Mascari hops on a red-eye to Newark, N.J., and spends the day at the warehouse, packing boxes to ensure orders don't fall behind. "What am I going to do? Sit at my computer and say, 'Where are these boxes? *Where are these boxes?*' It's important for me to go there and do it," he says.







**M**aking a product that didn't exist begins with cobbling a supply chain together from scratch.

The first problem? The tablets. "I joke that if I ever get a tattoo, it will probably be the tablet itself, or that tablet wrapper," says Mascari, flashing his one-dimpled smile, "because they were so impossible to put together."

Cleaning companies don't employ tablet-making machines, as their products are liquid-based. To produce Blueland's 94 percent bio-based tablets (made entirely of ingredients on the EPA's safer chemical ingredients list), Mascari visited 50 manufacturers ranging from medication makers to candy factories, searching for the right type of machinery.

Then there was the plastic problem — to avoid using it, Mascari's tattoo-worthy wrapper had to be developed without impacting the quality, smell or look of the tablet over time.

"There was no way we were going to package our product in something that wasn't compostable, recyclable and safe for children," Mascari says. "Believe me, it would have been so easy to say, 'We'll just do *less* plastic,' because those machines are in abundance."

Blueland was rewarded with the highest rating by leading environmental agency Cradle to Cradle. Even the artwork on the "Forever" bottles was put to the test, as many label paints contain known carcinogens. "Our suppliers think it's insane that we're sourcing inks and dyes from different places, but we wanted to know what was in them down to the molecular level, so we knew exactly what we were putting into a consumer's home," Mascari says.

Although there are plenty of eco-friendly cleaning products out there, Mascari isn't worried about compet-

ing with these bigger players. He considers Blueland — which has 18 patents pending — to be an entirely different category. "Asking a traditional liquid cleaning company to reinvent itself as a dry tablet company is basically saying, 'Clear the deck and start over,'" he says.

Bringing this vision to life has been exhausting. A former investment banker, Mascari is no stranger to late nights in the office — a work ethic, he says, that was cultivated as publisher of *Spectator*. He works from sunrise to well past sunset, with breaks for food and exercise. This doesn't include Sunday nights, when he stays up till 2:30 a.m. to work with his partners in Hong Kong, where it's Monday morning.

There is no guarantee that Blueland will have the same success as Bundle, and yet Mascari can't imagine spending 15-hour days doing anything else. "To go through the process of trying to build a business again, which is a grind, it has to be tied to something that is going to pull you out of bed every day," Mascari says. "This is brand new and yet already feels like my life's work."

**Yelena Shuster '09** has written for The New York Times, Cosmopolitan, InStyle and more. Her CCT Fall 2018 cover story, "Star Power," won a Folio: Eddie Honorable Mention and a CASE Silver Award. She founded and runs *TheAdmissionsGuru.com*, where she edits admissions essays for college and graduate school applications.

**"I JOKE THAT IF I EVER GET A TATTOO, IT WILL PROBABLY BE THE TABLET ITSELF."**





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## The Scoop on a Scandal

How Jodi Kantor '96 and Megan Twohey blasted open the Weinstein story

In 2012, when **Jodi Kantor '96** was last featured in *CCT*, her bestselling book *The Obamas* had recently been published. Kantor — who had been named the *New York Times* Arts and Leisure editor at just 27 — was the paper's Washington, D.C., correspondent. Her subtle yet revealing portrait of the President and First Lady's uneasy transition to White House life was acclaimed in *The New York Review of Books* as “among the very best books on this White House.” Kantor's unusual prowess as both a

writer and editor had gained her, early on, the kind of recognition that many reporters strive for over the course of decades.

Now, with fellow *Times* writer Megan Twohey, Kantor has written another blockbuster. Their newsroom memoir, *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement* (Penguin Press, \$28), has been hailed as the feminist equivalent of *The Washington Post*'s famous Watergate exposé. (The *Los Angeles Times* playfully headlined its review “She Said” is more important than ‘All the President’s Men.’ There, I said it.”) A well-matched pair of reporters, Kantor and Twohey seem poised to become the journalistic icons for their generation: Woodward and Bernstein, with a difference.

*She Said* is the inside story of the *New York Times* investigation into complaints of sexual misconduct by Miramax Films co-founder Harvey Weinstein; the story, a 3,300-word piece about alleged abuses by Weinstein, was published by the *Times* on October 5, 2017, and won Kantor and Twohey (along with *The New Yorker*'s Ronan Farrow) the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. After scores of interviews, Kantor and Twohey had managed to substantiate the sinister rumors that had swirled around Weinstein for decades.

The writers tirelessly sought out victims both well known (actresses Ashley Judd and Gwyneth Paltrow contributed to the investigation) and lower profile. They traveled extensively in search of leads and breakthroughs

Jodi Kantor '96 (left)  
and Megan Twohey



MARTIN SCHOELLER



— almost everyone they spoke to was hamstrung by a non-disclosure agreement, by a lucrative settlement or by pure fear of retribution from Weinstein. (Though Kantor claims not to have been afraid, the book describes how Weinstein hired an intelligence agency staffed by ex-Mossad agents to find a way to derail the *Times*'s reporting efforts.)

After months of hard work, Kantor and Twohey still had not located a female source with a firsthand account of abuse who was entirely sure that she wanted to speak on the record — but then, slowly, the tide turned. They began to find current and former employees who were willing to share inside knowledge and paperwork that would help substantiate the lurid stories Kantor and Twohey had uncovered. Chapter upon chapter of *She Said* details their meticulous work. The moment when *Times* executive editor Dean Baquet — “jumping out of his skin” — decides the story is finally ready to print feels seismic.

The results were immediate. A day after the story's publication, a third of Weinstein's board had resigned; days later, Weinstein himself was out. His corporation declared bankruptcy within a year. More importantly, the article's revelations led to a national outpouring of sexual-harassment confessions, helping to reignite the “Me Too” movement activist Tarana Burke had started in 2006. “So many women phoned ... to report allegations of sexual harassment and assaults against Weinstein that the paper had to assign additional reporters to handle the calls,” a *Times* contributor noted. Kantor and Twohey refer to their piece as “a solvent for secrecy, pushing women all over the world to speak up.”

Two years later, reading the book is a euphoric experience. The two reporters are at the top of their game, seamlessly and effectively cooperating and tag-teaming. As feminist author Susan Faludi points out in the *Times* review, it's the journalistic equivalent of world-level sports: “Watching Kantor and Twohey pursue their goal while guarding each other's back is as exhilarating as watching Megan Rapinoe and Crystal Dunn on the pitch.” In the end, what impresses most is Kantor and Twohey's fearlessness in the face of established power — and the fierce adrenaline that animates them. As Kantor recently admitted to *Vox*, she and Twohey “kind of relish” having had the chance to confront Weinstein's wrongdoings. “We're investigative journalists,” she says firmly. “We're trained to do this.”

— Rose Kernochan BC'82

Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story  
That Helped Ignite a Movement

**SHE  
SAID**

Jodi Kantor & Megan Twohey

Winners of the Pulitzer Prize

## The First Phone Call

In 2013, Jodi had started investigating women's experiences at corporations and other institutions. The gender debate in the United States already seemed saturated with feeling: opinion columns, memoirs, expressions of outrage or sisterhood on social media. It needed more exposure of hidden facts. Especially about the workplace. Workers, from the most elite to the lowliest, were often afraid to question their employers. Reporters were not. In doing those stories, Jodi had found that gender was not just a topic, but a kind of investigative entry point. Because women were still outsiders at many organizations, documenting what they experienced meant seeing how power functioned.

She wrote to actress Rose McGowan, calling on those experiences:

*Here's my own track record on these issues: Amazon, Starbucks and Harvard Business School have all changed their policies in response to gender-related problems I exposed. When I wrote about the class gap in breastfeeding — white collar women can pump on the job, lower paid women cannot — readers responded by creating the first-ever mobile lactation suites, now available in 200+ locations across the country.*

*If you'd rather not speak, I understand and best of luck with your book publication.*

*Thank you, Jodi*

McGowan wrote back within a few hours. She could talk any time before Wednesday.

The call seemed like it could be tricky: McGowan appeared tough, with a buzz cut and that call-to-arms Twitter feed. But the voice on the phone belonged to someone impassioned and game, who had a story and was searching for the right way to tell it. Her tweets about being raped had just been hints, with few details.



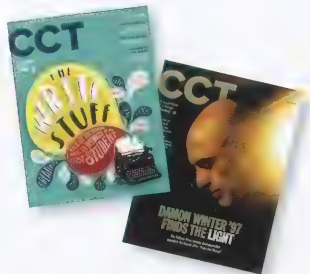


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# Alma Mater

COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Generally, the rule in interviews was that they were on the record — meaning the material could be published — unless otherwise discussed. But any woman with an assault complaint against Weinstein would probably be reluctant to have even an initial conversation. So Jodi agreed that the call would be kept private until they decided otherwise, and McGowan started in.

In 1997, she had been young and newly triumphant, on a heady trip to the Sundance Film Festival, where she alternated between premieres and parties and a TV camera crew followed her around. She had only been in four or five films, like the teen-horror flick *Scream*, but she was becoming one of the ingenues of the moment, with multiple new movies at the festival alone. “I was the belle of Sundance,” she said. Independent films were at the center of the culture, the festival was the place to be, and Harvey Weinstein was sovereign: That was where the producer-distributor had bought small films like *Clerks* and *Reservoir Dogs*, which he had turned into cultural touchstones. In her telling, McGowan didn’t remember which year this was; many actresses chronicled the past not according to date but instead to which movie of theirs was filming or being released at the time. McGowan recalled the screening where she had sat right near Weinstein:

The movie was called *Going All the Way*, she said with an incredulous laugh.

Afterward, he had asked for a meeting with her, which made sense: The top producer wanted to get together with the rising star. She went to see him at the Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley, in Park City, where they met in his room. Nothing happened except the usual talk about films and roles, she said.

But on the way out, Weinstein pulled her into a room with a hot tub, stripped her on the edge, and forced his face between her legs, according to McGowan. She said she remembered feeling like she was leaving her body, floating up to the ceiling and observing the scene from above. “I was just feeling massive shock, I was going into survival mode,” she said. To get away, McGowan said, she faked an orgasm and mentally gave herself step-by-step instructions: “Turn the door handle.” “Walk out of this meeting.”

Within a few days, she said, Weinstein had left a message on her home phone in Los Angeles with a creepy offer: Other big female stars were his special friends, and she could join his club as well. Shocked and distraught, McGowan had complained to her managers, hired a lawyer, and ended up with a \$100,000 settlement from Weinstein — essentially, a payment to make the matter go away, without any admission of wrongdoing on his part — which she said she had donated to a rape crisis center.

Did she have her records from the settlement? “They never gave me a copy,” she said.

The problem was worse than Weinstein, she said. Hollywood was an organized system for abusing women. It lured them with promises of fame, turned them into highly profitable products, treated their



Kantor and Twohey’s blockbuster story helped reignite the “Me Too” movement started in 2006, leading to women all over the world speaking out against sexual harassment.

bodies as property, required them to look perfect, and then discarded them. On the call, her indictments came fast, one after another:

“Weinstein — it’s not just him, it’s an entire machine, supply chain.”

“No oversight, no fear.”

“Each studio does the victim shaming and payouts.”

“Almost everyone has an NDA.”

“If white men could have a playground, this would be it.”

“The women here are just as guilty.”

“Don’t step out of line; you can be replaced.”

McGowan’s words were arresting. It wasn’t new to say that Hollywood took advantage of women, forced them into conformity, and dumped them when they aged or rebelled. But hearing a direct account of exploitation from a familiar face, in full disturbing detail, and with one of the most renowned producers in Hollywood as the perpetrator, was entirely different: sharper, more specific, sickening.

From the book *SHE SAID: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement* by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey. Reprinted by arrangement with Penguin Press, a member of Penguin Group (USA) LLC, A Penguin Random House Company. Copyright © Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, 2019.





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*Alma Mater* (Latin for “nourishing mother”) watches over campus through the dark days of winter. The sculpture, designed by Daniel Chester French and cast in bronze by John Williams, was unveiled on September 23, 1903, in front of Low Memorial Library following the opening exercises to kick off the University’s 150th academic year.

KILLIAN YOUNG / COLUMBIA COLLEGE

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## Our Vibrant Volunteers

By Michael Behringer '89

One of the great pleasures of being president of the Columbia College Alumni Association is the opportunity to connect with so many generations of College alumni. Passions for Columbia run deep, as do alumni's continued involvement with alma mater. Here, a few updates from my recent encounters with our diverse alumni volunteer community.

On September 27, alumni across the decades were well represented at the Core Centennial opening celebration, with almost 500 alumni, students and faculty in attendance. University Trustee Co-Chairs **Jonathan Lavine '88** and **Lisa Carnoy '89** opened and closed the event with their reflections on the Core Curriculum experience and its ongoing significance to Columbia.

At the breakfast reception, I connected with former CCAA presidents **Gerald Sherwin '55**, **Marty Kaplan '61**, **Brian Krisberg '81** and **Doug Wolf '88**. I'm inspired by how engaged with the College each of these alums remains, continually finding new ways to contribute and inspire the next generation of alumni volunteers — myself included!

I was especially excited to spend time with **Noam Elcott '00**, Art Humanities chair and an associate professor of modern and contemporary art. Noam is on the frontier of revolutionizing how art history is taught, having spearheaded the use of virtual reality technology in the Art Hum classroom. He demoed the VR system, which will be available at different events throughout the year, to **Stephen Buchman '59** and me — and it was impressive! We were transported into Notre Dame Cathedral and the Parthenon in an immersive experience that will forever change the way we experience art. Noam also participated in a panel where he previewed the work underway to update the Art Humanities curriculum — the first significant change since its inception in 1947.

I thank **Bernice Tsai '96**, **Katie Day Benvenuto '03** and **Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88** for their roles in helping with this incredible kickoff event and for their ongoing planning of other Centennial programs still to come. Bernice and Katie, both Alumni Office staff members, work closely with Stefanie (chair of the Core Centennial Committee) to help develop and promote Centennial-related programming. The day was a huge success, in part due to their collective efforts.

Many alums returned for a great Homecoming weekend on October 18–19, topped by a 44–6 victory over Penn. This year's activities extended beyond Kraft Field to include a new Friday night on-campus pep rally (including dinner with Roar-ee), the annual Saturday alumni-student lunch under the tent and a new Saturday night After Party for young alumni at the fabulous Hudson Terrace. I thank former CCAA president **Kyra Barry '87** and current CCAA secretary **Chris Della Pietra '89** for their work as co-chairs of the Homecoming and Reunions Committee in supporting such great programming.

At the game, I caught up with **Tom Cornacchia '85**, chair of the Board of Visitors, who is spearheading several key BOV initiatives



JENNA BASCOM

focused on enhancing the undergraduate experience. BOV member **Leslie Gittess Brodsky '88**, who was awarded a 2019 Columbia Alumni Medal in recognition of her many years of service, was also at several of the Homecoming activities.

Also on hand was **Mila Tuttle '96**, who is very involved with fundraising for Columbia, having co-chaired the CCAA's Alumnae Legacy Circle and frequently hosted events for alumni leaders.

I was also happy to spend time with some more recent alumni, including **Brian Chung '16** and **Jocelyn Bohn '15**, co-presidents of Columbia College Young Alumni, and **Carl Yin '17**. Brian and Jocelyn are feeling energized by their roles and looking for young alumni volunteers to help them engage with their peers. Carl was excited to be back on campus, as he recently moved to San Francisco and started a position at Google with its Business Operations and Strategy group. Carl remains active on the CCAA and CCYA boards, and is a CCT class correspondent.

I am in touch with one of CC's newest alums, **Emily Gruber '19**, who now clerks for Hon. Arthur Engoron at the New York State Supreme Court, and plans to apply to law school. Emily was an engaged student, and I'm delighted to see that continue as an alumna. She co-chairs the Class of 2019's First Reunion Fundraising Committee, was very supportive of the new Homecoming programming and is a co-class correspondent for CCT.

The College is fortunate to have such a vibrant alumni volunteer community. It's inspiring to see such commitment to giving back to Columbia and wonderful that there are so many ways to remain involved with alma mater.

**ROAR!**

*Michael Behringer*

The CCAA Board of Directors met on October 19, before the Homecoming festivities.



# lions



MARK WILEY

## Portraying Nature in Paint

By Rebecca Beyer

In his first year at the College, in a studio course with artist Peppino Mangravite, **Jack Stuppin '55** put the skills he learned in childhood art classes to work in a charcoal study of a live model. The professor was not impressed.

"He put a big X on my drawing," Stuppin recalls, laughing. "He said, 'You're a human being. You have a mind, a soul, a heart. Why do you want to do what an inanimate object like a camera does better?'"

The criticism might have stung, but for Stuppin, it was also freeing. "It liberated me," he says. "I got looser. I let my emotions get involved."

Today, Stuppin's style as a landscape artist has evolved far from photorealistic renderings. His California and Hudson River landscapes — known for their bright, super-enriched colors — fuse a certain folk-art primitiveness with deeply personal feeling. His work is in the permanent collections of several museums, and he has had solo or group shows in galleries across the United States, including the well-known ACA Galleries in New York City and the Berggruen Gallery in San Francisco. Now in his ninth decade, Stuppin shows no signs of stopping.

Before he became a full-time artist, Stuppin, a Yonkers native, served in the Marine Corps. While awaiting orders for his peace-

time deployment to Japan, he spent a month in San Francisco and fell in love with the city. When he left the military in 1958, he made it his home, working as an insurance salesman, a stockbroker and an investment banker. Stuppin helped start several successful technology companies, including American Microsystems, Applied Micro Circuits Corp. and Autodesk. Meanwhile, he painted on nights and weekends and took classes at the San Francisco Art Institute (one of his teachers was Jay DeFeo, a well-known member of the Beatnik community, who watched her students work while drinking beer and sitting on a folding chair atop a table; she called Stuppin "Smiley").

By the early 1980s, Stuppin had earned enough from his investments to walk away from the business world. He also moved to "the country," settling in Sebastopol, Calif., where he still lives.

Stuppin's success is a testament to his talent and creative approach. One technique he employs is to print large versions of his smaller paintings and apply multiple layers of paint until he has produced an entirely different-looking piece. Famed art critic Donald Kuspit '55 wrote in a 2015 catalog that the paint in Stuppin's

### CCT Print Extras

See more of Stuppin's work at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





Hudson River landscapes is “like some kind of embalming material, immortalizing nature in wishful fantasy, magically eternalizing it as a touchstone for a future in which it will no longer exist.”

Still, Stuppin says luck also has played a role in his journey. “Everything in my life has been lucky,” he says.

His introduction to Bill Wheeler, the late activist, artist and hippie commune founder, was happenstance, for instance: Stuppin wanted to build a table and Wheeler had a portable saw mill. Wheeler then asked Stuppin to join him *en plein air* painting, or painting outdoors.

“I said, ‘I haven’t painted the landscape since I was a teenager,’” recalls Stuppin, who at the time was doing more abstract work. “I told him, ‘I’ll go out once, but don’t ask me again.’ But then I thoroughly enjoyed the process.”

Wheeler and Stuppin became half of a group known as the Sonoma Four (the other members were Tony King and William

Morehouse). Their vastly different renditions of the same landscapes became a currency that brought them exposure and recognition, Stuppin says.

“It was very interesting to people to see four takes on the same scene in such different styles,” he says.

In 1995, Stuppin, Wheeler and King each spent a week working in the Bay Area’s Farallon Islands, producing a series of works in support of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, which manages the National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting paintings were later exhibited at the California Academy of Sciences.

Stuppin, who continues to show his work around the country, says painting is “almost like a narcotic” for him. “It’s just this complete concentration of the brush and the paint on the canvas,” he says. “It’s part of my personality. I have to paint.”

**Rebecca Beyer** is a freelance writer and editor in Boston.

## Researching Nuclear Risk

By Nathalie Alonso '08

“Social science meets Dungeons & Dragons” is how **Jacquelyn Schneider '05** describes the innovative war game she designed to assess if and how a cyberattack could lead to nuclear war.

A fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution, Schneider’s work is at the intersection of technology, political psychology and national security. For her current study, she has recruited military and foreign policy officials, cybersecurity experts and business leaders worldwide to participate in a tabletop game in which four to six players simulating a national security cabinet are asked to respond to a hypothetical crisis.

Unlike traditional war games used by the military, Schneider’s experimental game is academic. She’s testing for variables; specifically, whether a state’s access to cyber weapons or known vulnerabilities in its nuclear control program would stop or motivate it to use nuclear weapons. “I am always interested in how the human being interacts with the technology,” Schneider says.

Schneider’s game is more ambitious than most in its scope: It has been research deployed in several countries, including Norway,

Argentina and Thailand. Professors at Cornell and the University of Wisconsin have also run the game with undergraduates, allowing Schneider to compare the results to those produced by players considered experts in crisis decision making. The early returns are heartening: “We’re finding that people tend to downplay their own vulnerabilities, which decreases incentives to use nuclear weapons,” says Schneider.

Schneider was first exposed to war games as an intelligence officer in the Air Force (she enrolled in ROTC to fund her studies at the College), a job that sent her to Japan and South Korea for six years following graduation. “I immediately used the knowledge from all the great courses I took in political science and economics,” she notes.

After leaving active duty in 2011, Schneider earned a master’s from Arizona State University and a Ph.D. from The George Washington University, both in political science. She’s still an Air Force reservist assigned to U.S. Cyber Command; prior to being named a Hoover Fellow last summer, Schneider taught at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Last summer, Schneider was also appointed to the Cyberspace Solarium Commission as a senior policy advisor. Created in 2019, the bipartisan commission looks to develop a comprehensive U.S. cyber policy. Schneider’s first book, *The Rise of Unmanned Technologies: Explaining the American Desire for Drones*, co-authored with Julia McDonald of the University of Denver, is slated for publication in 2020.

“I want to do work that makes the U.S. safer and more prosperous,” says Schneider. “The puzzles that I’m drawn to — about cybersecurity, about unmanned technologies, about strategic stability — are things that we desperately need answers on.”

**Nathalie Alonso '08**, from Queens, is a freelance writer and an editorial producer for *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish-language website.





# bookshelf

## Putting the “F” in Family

By Jill C. Shomer

Can you name a number 1 *New York Times* bestseller that has the F-word in the title? Your ability to answer may depend on whether you have small children — we’re referring to 2011’s *Go the F\*\*k to Sleep* by Adam Mansbach ’98, SOA’00. The real-talk bedtime book (expertly profane actor Samuel L. Jackson narrates the audio version) was a smash with parents worldwide, allowing them to acknowledge and laugh at the frustration of having youngsters who refuse to sail peacefully to dreamland.

After a sequel, 2014’s *You Have to F\*\*king Eat*, Mansbach is back with another children’s book. *F\*\*k, Now There Are Two of You* (Akashic Books, \$15.95) reflects the author’s reality, and then some: Mansbach now has three daughters (“TWO OF THEM ARE UNDER TWO YEARS OLD,” his bio exclaims). “We had the first girl and from that point on I was like, ‘please let the rest be girls,’” he told *CCT*. “Girls have their shit together much more.”

Still, he says, “two is a million more kids than one.” In *Two of You*, Mansbach locates the humor in stressful group outings, loss of adult time, anxiety over future college tuition, and yes, bedtime. The audio book is narrated by famously acerbic comedian Larry David.

Though the *F\*\*k* books are his most widely known (he also penned G-rated versions for parents to read aloud without changing the words), Mansbach’s bibliography is unusually multi-genre. In addition to writing for older kids (*Benjamin Franklin: Huge Pain in My ...*), Mansbach writes poetry (*Genius B-Boy Cynics Getting Weeded in the Garden of Delights*), and his novels have ranged from satire (*Angry Black White Boy*), to saga (*The End of the Jews*), to supernatural (*The Devil’s Bag Man*).

His years at the College were similarly unorthodox: Mansbach, who grew up in Boston, was a rapper and a DJ from a young age, and “within 72 hours of arriving at Columbia I found everyone who rapped,” he says. “There weren’t that many of us.” As a sopho-

more he founded a hip-hop journal, *Elementary*, and straddled the experience of being a student while running a magazine full-time. “There were deep, vibrant conversations going on in and around the culture that weren’t being reflected in print, so I thought I could do something about that,” he says. “*Elementary* became a great community of writers and artists and rappers and DJs.”

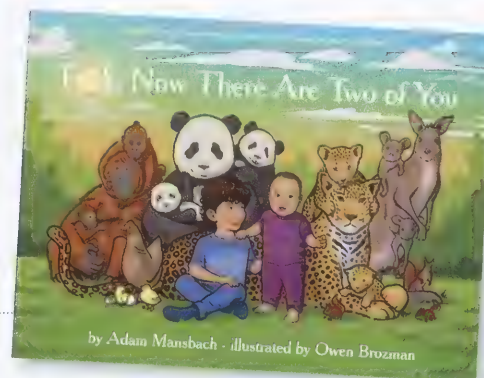
He was also a fan of jazz, and in his junior year, Mansbach became a roadie for the drummer Elvin Jones. “He was John Coltrane’s drummer in the ’60s, pretty much the greatest drummer who ever lived,” he says. “I traveled the world with him.” Jones inspired Mansbach’s first novel, *Shackling Water*, published in 2002.

Mansbach says the leap from novels to *Go the F\*\*k to Sleep* happened accidentally. “When your mind works in a satirical way and you think you’re funny, you just say stuff,” he says. “I was with friends and made a joke about writing a kids’ book called ‘Go the F\*\*k to Sleep!’ and as soon as I said it, I sort of knew what that book would be, how it would play with the tropes of the bedtime book.”

He was surprised by the instant response (“I was mostly tickled that it was even going to be published!”). But at the same time he became a bestselling author, personal tragedy struck: Mansbach’s younger brother took his life. “It’s taken me a long time to talk about it,” he says. “I was publicly doing all of this shit, navigating the sudden fame of the book, and privately going through the worst experience I’ve ever had.” Mansbach’s next book, to be published in September 2020, is a poetic memoir called *I Had a Brother Once*.

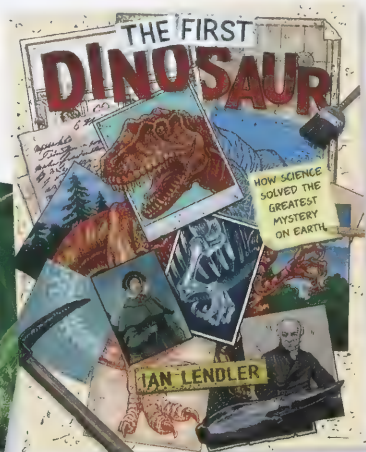
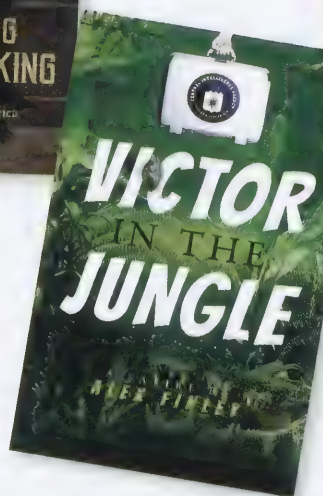
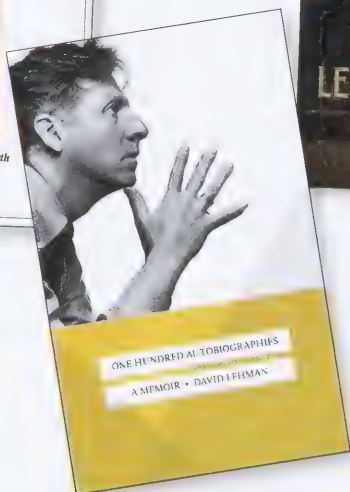
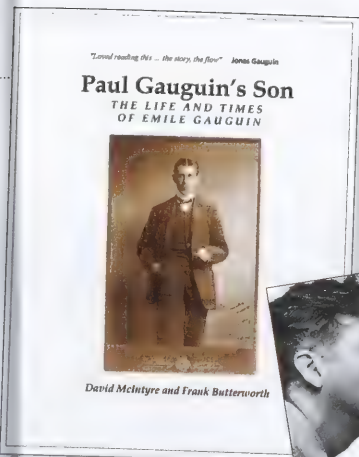
Mansbach was thinking of the College when he wrote the screenplay for *Barry*, the 2016 film directed by Vikram Gandhi ’00 that imagines Barack Obama ’83 as a young man. “What drew me to focusing on that part of his life is that it’s so opaque, it lends itself to wholesale invention,” Mansbach says. “I had his memoir and a smattering of articles for sourcing, but it was mostly retrofitting who he was then based on who he is now. I was largely drawing on Vikram’s and my experiences at Columbia.” Mansbach’s screenplay was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and a Film Independent Spirit Award, both in 2017.

Today, reflecting on the latest in his cuss-filled collection, Mansbach says, “*Go the F\*\*k to Sleep* became fodder for think pieces about the state of parenting, but these books are an affirmation that we’re not going through this alone — it’s an opportunity for a sort of shared catharsis. I’ll probably leave a few copies of *Two of You* at the doctor’s office when I go for my vasectomy.”



MATTHEW L. KAPLAN





**Paul Gauguin's Son: The Life and Times of Emile Gauguin** by Francis Butterworth '57 and David McIntyre. Butterworth, formerly a professor of genetics and molecular biology, provides a comprehensive account of a son living in the shadow of his famous artist father (Saugus Books, \$39.50).

**Four Men Shaking: Searching for Sanity with Samuel Beckett, Norman Mailer, and My Perfect Zen Teacher** by Lawrence Shainberg '58. In this memoir, the author considers how two literary friendships and a teacher-student relationship shaped his experiences of writing and Zen practice (Shambhala, \$16.95).

**The Road Traveled and Other Essays** by Steven Cahn '63. Philosopher and educator Cahn offers his latest reflections on the nature of well-being, the rationality of religious belief and the aims of higher education (Resource Publications, \$17).

**The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution** by Eric Foner '63. The Pulitzer Prize-winning scholar outlines the history of three constitutional amendments that built equality into America's foundation, and how those guarantees have been shaken over time (W.W. Norton & Co., \$26.95).

**One Hundred Autobiographies: A Memoir** by David Lehman '70. While undergoing painful chemotherapy and surgery for cancer, Lehman aims to make sense of his mortality by composing a life story from 100 short reflections (Cornell University Press, \$22.95).

**Resurrecting Leather-Stocking: Pathfinding in Jacksonian America** by Bill Christophersen '71. The author argues that James Fenimore Cooper's Leather-Stocking frontier tales, though fictional, highlighted real problems plaguing 19th-century America and also suggested a path forward (University of South Carolina Press, \$59.99).

**Graphic Music Analysis: An Introduction to Schenkerian Theory and Practice** by Eric Wen '74. Wen guides students of musicology, theory and composition through the process of creating graphic representations of music, giving more than 650 musical examples (RL Publishing, \$85).

**John O'Hara: Four Novels of the 1930s** edited by Steven Goldleaf '76. In one volume, four novels about the pursuit of pleasure and status in Jazz Age America, from the author who has been called "the real Fitzgerald" (Library of America, \$40).

**Exile Home** by Mark Statman '80. Poet Pablo Medina says of Statman's newest book: "The father poem, 'Green Side Up,' is a triumph of courage and poetry and love. From it the manuscript opens like a flower of multiple petals" (Lavender Ink, \$17.95).

**Dockworker Power: Race and Activism in Durban and the San Francisco Bay Area** by Peter Cole '91. Workers in the world's ports are often missed in commentary on today's globalizing economy. Cole brings their experiences to light in a comparative study of Durban, South Africa, and San Francisco, Calif. (University of Illinois Press, \$35).

**Victor in the Jungle** by Alex Finley '94. The pseudonymous author, a former CIA officer, continues the satiric adventures of case officer Victor Caro, now on assignment with his family in South America (Smiling Hippo Press, \$14.99).

**The Rise of the Working Class Shareholder: Labor's Last Best Weapon** by David Webber '95. Webber, a law professor at Boston University, describes how worker organizations can wield the power of pension

funds against corporate exploitation (Harvard University Press, \$35).

**The First Dinosaur: How Science Solved the Greatest Mystery on Earth** by Ian Lendler '96. The idea that giant creatures roamed Earth millions of years before humans was once unfathomable; Lendler's book for young readers recounts the fossil discoveries and advances in science that led to the knowledge that dinosaurs existed (Margaret K. McElderry Books, \$24.99).

**The Passion Projects: Modernist Women, Intimate Archives, Unfinished Lives** by Melanie Micir '03. A look at how modernist women writers such as Virginia Woolf used biographical writing to resist their exclusion from literary history (Princeton University Press, \$29.95).

**Beyond the Boulevards: A Short Biography of Pondicherry** by Aditi Sriram '07. Sriram, a writing professor at Ashoka University, traces the historical, cultural and spiritual evolution of the South Indian coastal city of Pondicherry (Aleph Book Company, \$16.99).

**How to Fight Anti-Semitism** by Bari Weiss '07. The *New York Times* writer delivers an urgent wake-up call to all Americans, exposing the alarming rise of anti-Semitism in this country and explaining what we can do to defeat it (Crown, \$20).

— Jill C. Shomer

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_bookshelf](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)



# classnotes



COLIN SULLIVAN '11

A light snow dusts campus as winter arrives on Morningside Heights.

## 1940–49

*Columbia College Today*  
Columbia Alumni Center  
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[Editor's note: Graduates from Classes 1940–49 can now all write to *Columbia College Today* to share their news. Please take a moment to send a note to either the postal or the email address at the top of this column to connect with us and with classmates.]

From Dr. Melvin Hershkovitz '42: "I recently wondered who among our Great Class of 1942 could be considered nationally and/

or internationally famous (not just well-known in our own Columbia community). I thought that a good criterion would be a prominent obituary notice, with photo, in one of our major daily newspapers (*The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*). Three late classmates fit in to that category: **Gerald Green '42**, **Don Mankiewicz '42** and **Donald Keene '42**, GSAS'49.

"Gerald was a prolific novelist, TV writer and producer at NBC. One of his first novels, *The Last Angry Man*, was made into a film with Paul Muni. His television script for *Holocaust* drew worldwide attention and acclaim. Gerald died in 2006 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease.

"Don won the Harper Novel Prize in 1955 for *Trial* and originated the popular television show *Ironside*. His father, Herman Mankiewicz CC 1917, wrote the film script for *Citizen Kane*, one of the most famous movies ever made. His uncle, Joseph Mankiewicz CC 1928, was a prominent Academy Award-winning Hollywood writer and director who wrote the film scripts for *A Letter to Three Wives* and *Julius Caesar*.

"Donald was a world-famous published scholar of Japanese history and literature. He had a long and extraordinary career with the Columbia faculty before his death in 2019. I knew him only casually, since our paths rarely crossed during his cultural and my pre-medical curriculum studies.





"Gerald and Don Mankiewicz were two of my closest friends at Columbia, a diverse group that included **Donald Dickinson '42**, **Arthur Wellington '42**, **Dr. Herbert Mark '42**, **Robert Kaufman '42**, **Charles Hoelzer '42**, **Jack Arbolino '42**, **Stewart McIlvennan '42** and **Dr. Gerald Klingon '42**, whose 99th birthday was on September 22.

"Looking through the old books section in my bookcase, I recently found *How To Watch Football* by Lou Little, a 315-page book published in 1935. It has a good picture of Coach Little, and multiple illustrations of his comments on offense, defense, scouting, kicking, passing and football officials. It was published one year after Columbia's famous 7-0 upset of Stanford in the 1934 Rose Bowl, and is available through Amazon. Meanwhile, our current football team has 61 returning starters from 2018, and what Coach Al Bagnoli calls 'great potential.' We will soon see if they can win an Ivy League Championship. Kind regards and good wishes to the few surviving members of our Great Class of 1942."

From **Bernie Weisberger '43**: "Greetings, classmates. I note that we are still the second class reporting in to *CCT*, and I am not at all jealous. I want all of us 90-somethings still kicking to enjoy a life of high quality to the last drop. As I write this in September, I am looking out my window at a scene of wind-whipped trees, reminding me that autumn is officially only

a week or so away, and winter not far behind. But there is not much to report on my calendar except a string of appointments to keep the old machine in shape — doctor, dentist, audiologist, podiatrist and ophthalmologist, all of whom give good reports considering the mileage that has accumulated.

"I reported in the Fall 2019 issue the achievements of my six grandchildren either in gaining degrees or putting them in practice in worthwhile jobs — asylum lawyer, history professor (ahem!), social worker and a couple of miscellaneous occupations. That's the pleasant part of the present. The current state of the Union under You Know Who is not pleasant and auguries aren't encouraging, so that tends to push me into the past, and I am thinking right now that 80 winters ago, 1939-40, against the background of the early stages of the war when there was little major action, I was enjoying making the acquaintance of the Core Curriculum's classics and the wonderful professors who taught them — Gilbert Highet and Dwight Miner CC 1926 in particular. I remember them both as charged with energy and enthusiasm; Highet bounding into the classroom with a cry of 'Good morning, gentlemen, today we're going to talk about the greatest play ever written' and Miner doing a hilarious imitation of a 'robber baron' on the Rhine holding up a juicy fish, which he confiscated

## COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| BC    | Barnard College   |
| BUS   | Columbia Business School                                    |
| CP    | Pharmaceutical Sciences                                     |
| DM    | College of Dental Medicine                                  |
| GS    | School of General Studies                                   |
| GSAPP | Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  |
| GSAS  | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences                        |
| HN    | Institute of Human Nutrition                                |
| JRN   | Graduate School of Journalism                               |
| JTS   | Jewish Theological Seminary                                 |
| LAW   | Columbia Law School   |
| LS    | Library Service   |
| NRS   | School of Nursing   |
| PH    | Mailman School of Public Health                             |
| PS    | College of Physicians and Surgeons                          |
| SEAS  | The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science |
| SIPA  | School of International and Public Affairs                  |
| SOA   | School of the Arts  |
| SPS   | School of Professional Studies                              |
| SW    | School of Social Work                                       |
| TC    | Teachers College  |
| UTS   | Union Theological Seminary                                  |

as the price of letting a barge go through his stretch of the river, and Douglas Moore playing Mozart and Bach on the piano in my second year of Humanities. What a time! What teachers (and I had yet to encounter Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932 in my third year) and what a mind-opening set of ideas to carry with us into our lives and professions. I make no apologies for ranting and raving a little, exactly because the memories are so sweet.

"So come on, CC'43 classmates in our shrinking numbers, how about sharing some anecdotes of your first experiences here? Don't wait till Father Time tells us 'our revels now are ended.' And happy 2020 to us all."

**Harold Edmund Brandmaier '44**, SEAS'47, SEAS'48 writes: "After two years in Columbia College I transferred to Columbia Engineering. I received a B.S. in 1947, an M.S. in 1948 and a [doctorate] in 1962.

"While at Columbia, I met Ginny, then a Barnard student, over a lunch of peanut butter soup in the Lions Den. It turned out to be a lifetime partnership. We married and had two boys and two girls in five years. All have graduated from colleges with multiple degrees and have families of their own.

"After five years at Worthington Corp., I enlisted in the Navy, graduated from Officer Candidate School and spent the following two years at sea aboard the heavy cruiser *U.S.S. Newport News*.

"I worked in industry for many years, helping to solve technical problems involving high-temperature gas properties, advanced composite materials and applications, and magneto fluid dynamics.

"After retirement, I changed my technical interests completely and became an expert in sundial design. I helped to design and install a number of sundials. I also authored articles in *The Compendium*, the journal of the North American Sundial Society, and authored two books on sundials."

**Bernie Sunshine '46** reports on his classmates' activities: "**Albert**



Mildred Howitt, widow of Bill Howitt '41, with all four of her children, left to right: Larry Howitt '85, Ken Howitt '76, Jeff Howitt '72 and Arn Howitt '69.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.





Members of the Class of 1949 and their guests met on campus at their 70th reunion on June 2.

**Starr '46**, PS'49 recalls that during WWII, most of his peers were in the military, but he was just 16 when he started at CC and then went to medical school at 18, thereby deferring his service until the Korean War, in which he served as a battalion surgeon in the 1st Cavalry Division. Working in a mobile army surgical hospital (aka MASH), he 'did more than 1,000 major abdominal operations in one year.' He returned to P&S, where he completed his training in surgery. His 'fondest memories involved the courses in Contemporary Civilization, which laid the groundwork for a happy and successful life,' he writes. 'The rest is history.'

"History, indeed. Albert's work on the first durable artificial mitral valve and first artificial heart valve

has perhaps saved many hundreds of thousands of lives.

"And what is life without being able to laugh at its insults? Some of the Class of '46 might find **Larry Ross '46's** definition of 'nonagenarian' apt: 'reaching the age when you can enjoy almost none of the things you loved to do.'

"An exception, we think, can be made for keeping in touch with old (I do mean old) friends.

"Happy to hear from **Mel Holson '46** that he is 'still functioning despite two new hips and one new knee.' He looks forward to another class get-together. Well, reader, what do you say?

"**Dr. Paul Marks '46**, PS'49, president emeritus of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, but now fully retired and living in New York City and Connecticut with Joan, his wife of 66 years, was recently interviewed about his time on the committee to review the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor accident. His growing family now includes two great-grandchildren.

"After his Army discharge in 1946, **Norman Hansen '46**, SEAS'50 resumed his studies at Columbia, earning a B.A. from the College and then a B.S. from Columbia Engineering, thanks to the GI Bill. He was an engineer for Mobil Oil for more than 30 years, first in Paulsboro, N.J., and then on projects around the world. Today, he resides in Bothell, Wash., and is a great-grandfather eight times over.

"It is with great sadness that we report the passing of **Arthur**

**Lazarus Jr. '46** on July 27, 2019, at 92. According to an obituary in *The Washington Post*, Arthur was 'a Washington lawyer who represented Native American tribes for more than four decades, notably securing a landmark \$106 million award for the Sioux Nation as part of its long fight for the Black Hills of South Dakota.' It was 'the largest Indian land compensation award in U.S. history,' and Arthur is regarded as one of the 'preeminent practitioners' of Indian law. At Columbia, Arthur was a roommate of **Allen Ginsberg '48** and editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Daily Spectator*."

**Edwin "Ed" Paul '48** writes: "It's saddening to see less and less about classmates' activities, as well as the classes bracketing ours. Sometimes there is nothing at all. So I am going to make sure that in this issue, at least, there is something for the Class of 1948.

"After graduating from Harvard's Graduate School of Design in 1956 and working in architectural offices for a few years, we were able to purchase a plot, with savings, loans and a lot of dickering, in back-country Greenwich, Conn., which the developer hadn't been able to sell. It was nearly unbuildable for a conventional builder's house. It was a long shelf on a narrow, rocky ledge with a dramatic view overlooking acres of forest below. I started dreaming of a house that would fit there and designed a mostly glass house with an innovative closet system hung off the outside of the structure to take advantage of the view. It attracted a lot of attention, and about a year after the house was finished and we moved in I got an offer to do another house. I gave notice at the New York office where I worked and opened an office in my house. It immediately eliminated the tedious and often unreliable three-hour daily commute to Midtown, and I was able to spend more time with Judy and the children. We had a small make-believe farm with goats, chickens, coops, sheds and gardens. We eventually moved a historic barn to the property.

"Later, with all the kids grown and an empty nest looming, we decided to change pace. I retired from full-time practice and bought a building on the harbor in Newport, R.I. Judy opened a wonderful Victorian antique shop, St. Albert's, in

our building on Thames Street, and I kept a Nonsuch catboat at our dock.

"I loved Newport and enjoyed visiting and researching all its architectural history and its wonderful buildings. I did a lot of sailing, too, around Newport and the islands, and Judy and I went on shopping trips and to auctions all over New England to replenish the fast-moving inventory in the shop.

"It was a wonderfully different and relaxed life. We became deeply involved in other things, as well, and I was slowly forgetting about all the deadlines and tensions of my architectural life and almost all the houses that I had done more than 40 years ago.

"It came as a pleasant surprise, then, when I was informed last year that the Greenwich Historical Society, at its annual meeting, recognized my first house (ours) as an outstanding example of mid-century modern architecture. The society mounted a distinctive bronze plaque on the house and also recorded the history of the house in stories and a lot of pictures in a little book. Subsequently, some of the owners of those early houses got together and published another little book, of four of my other houses, just in time for my 95th birthday this past August."

**Dick Hyman '48** shares: "On October 16, my clarinet-playing partner, Ken Peplowski, and I appeared at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center playing selections from our new duet album, *Counterpoint Lerner & Loewe*. On October 17 and 18, I appeared at a number of events having to do with my receiving the Satchmo Award from the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. This honored some of my earlier activities involving Armstrong's music; at that time I wrote and recorded special arrangements of his repertoire and toured the United States, Europe and the Soviet Union in performance. I've continued to be involved with Armstrong's music, although more recently I have composed a clarinet concerto for Ken as well as various chamber music."

"Hard to believe that it has been more than 70 years since graduation, when the subway cost a nickel," writes **Dr. Alvin Eden '48**. "I am still practicing pediatrics and starting to write my memoirs. I would like to hear from any 1948 classmate. Please email me at babydoceden@gmail.com."

Stay in  
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:

[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).





Graduates from the 1940s, please share your news by writing to one of the addresses at the top of the column; your classmates want to hear from you! Be well going into the new year and the new decade!

## 1950

### REUNION 2020

JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccta-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
**622 W. 113th St., MC 4530**  
**New York, NY 10025**  
**cct@columbia.edu**

CCT wishes the members of the Class of 1950 a happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2020. Please send a note to either of the addresses at the top of the column, as your classmates would love to hear from you. And mark your calendars now for Reunion Weekend 2020, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6.

## 1951

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
**622 W. 113th St., MC 4530**  
**New York, NY 10025**  
**cct@columbia.edu**

Clare Henry shared news about her husband, **Phillip A. Bruno**: “Phillip and his British wife have relocated

to Scotland, where her children and grandkids live. He has taken this opportunity to present a selection of his art collection to the famous Hunterian Art Gallery and Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, founded 1807 and the oldest public museum in Scotland. There will be an exhibition there, *A Gift to Glasgow from New York: The Phillip A. Bruno Collection*, until January 12 (it began on October 18) to celebrate this New York–Glasgow gift, coinciding with Phillip’s 90th birthday on January 3.

“Phillip got off to a flying start with visits to Paris to see Matisse, Brâncuși and Giacometti. A stay in Holland with the Van Gogh family soon followed. Phillip’s French father relocated to New York when Phillip was young, but maintained his European connections, so his son’s horizons were always adventurous.

“The single most influential event in Phillip’s career led directly from his passion for Van Gogh. In 1949, at 19, he was overwhelmed by the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s historic exhibition dedicated to the artist. Phillip took the initiative to visit Van Gogh’s nephew at his New York hotel, and invited him to give a talk at Columbia. Not long afterward, Phillip’s invitation to Columbia was reciprocated, and he traveled to stay with the family at Laren, in North Holland, driving there from Amsterdam with the artist’s nephew, Vincent Willem van Gogh, who was the major lender to the show and went on to found the Van Gogh Museum in 1973. Phillip’s bedroom had four paintings by Van Gogh and a window looking onto a garden with sunflowers. With Vincent W.,

Phillip handled some of Van Gogh’s letters written in English. Friendship with artists and privileged access to works of art went on to be the theme of his life.

“As the director of New York art galleries for 58 years (including the Staempfli Gallery, and later Marlborough Gallery, both important venues for contemporary art), Phillip befriended and advised collectors and museum directors. He always passionately collected but was generous in gifting hundreds of works to U.S. museums. ‘I never had enough wall space,’ he says with a laugh.

“The gift includes 75 works of art by many American artists, and some European. During almost 60 years at the forefront of the art world in Manhattan working with key artists, galleries, dealers and collectors, Phillip’s career gave him an exciting, remarkable, close-up view of international art events.

“Phillip was born in Paris and studied art history and architecture at Columbia before embarking on a distinguished career working with artists like Avery, Brâncuși, Bertoia, Chihuly, Christo, Delvaux, Katz, Grooms, Desiderio, Jacklin, Kitaj and Rickey. Manhattan is a truly international art center, and while many of the artists Phillip dealt with were New Yorkers, he also had a special interest in European, primitive and oceanic art, as well as in artists from the U.S.’s West Coast. *A Gift to Glasgow* features works by American artists such as William Dole, Lee Gatch, David Levine, Leroy Lamis, Robert Andrew Parker and Tom Otterness, as well as international figures such as Mexican painter José Luis Cuevas and Japanese sculptor Masayuki Nagare.

“Phillip’s stepson Damian Henry is also an artist, so Phillip is happy to keep his hand in, while enjoying a new life among the British art world.”

**Ted Bihuniak** writes: “My wife, Marilyn, died on August 20, 2019. She succumbed to acute myeloid leukemia after battling it for three-plus years. We had 62-plus years of a happy marriage.”

**Immanuel Wallerstein** GSAS’59 died on August 31, 2019. *The New York Times* featured his obituary online on September 10 with the headline “Immanuel Wallerstein, Sociologist With Global View, Dies at 88.” You can also read about

Immanuel in this issue of CCT in the “Obituaries” section.

Share your news, life story or favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either of the addresses at the top of this column. Your classmates would enjoy hearing about you. Happy 2020!

## 1952

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
**622 W. 113th St., MC 4530**  
**New York, NY 10025**  
**cct@columbia.edu**

Share your news, life story or favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either of the addresses at the top of this column. Happy holidays!

## 1953

**Lew Robins**  
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Your classmates would love to hear from you, so please take a moment to share your stories, news or a favorite Columbia College memory in these pages. Wishing you a pleasant start to the new year.

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
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**Bronxville, NY 10708**  
**brecherservices@aol.com**

Gentlemen of ’54, as you read this column you are aware that we all are edging toward the opening of a new decade — 2020 — that will signify for many an opportunity to make one more lasting mark on our world and on the lives of younger generations, who might even remember and bless us for our efforts and accomplishments. In the spirit of *Tikkun Olam* (“help heal the world”), will we use our next decade to help correct, make or build a virtual if not actually ethical structure that will help define the future of our universe?

That, fellows of ’54, is the theme that I felt was pervasive among those of us who attended our 65th



Bernd Brecher ’54, Jennifer Anglade Dahlberg ’93 and Helen Brecher enjoyed lunch together in Stockholm in September.



anniversary reunion at the beginning of this past June. Highfalutin perhaps, but reread our Class Notes in the Fall 2019 *CCT* before you react.

In mid-September, my wife, Helen, and I made come to pass a long-ago personal promise to visit Stockholm. We had a spectacular learning experience, finding ourselves in a multi-ethnic, cultural, geographic, racial, bilingual — the list is long — melting pot of several million Swedes (and some tourists) who put our own NYC, Chicago or Los Angeles in the dark ages of multi-just-about-anything. Everything worked, even the buses and subways. History and museums were everywhere. Food was of the world. The opera and ballet were not to be missed. People smiled, responded, and appeared glad. Glitches? Of course: On our first night, finding the hotel less than desirable, the American Embassy helped us find a spectacular hotel and room at 2 a.m. Ah, travel! (Yes, Sweden's open arms to refugees and asylum-seekers has begun to generate a right-wing backlash. Ah, world!)

Highlight: We met with and were advised by Jennifer Anglade Dahlberg '93, who graduated from the College with a degree in political science. She was an executive search consultant for four years, then moved to Stockholm in 1997. Her first novel, *Uptown and Down*, was published in 2005. Her second novel, *Lagging Indicators*, was published in 2018. Jennifer still resides in Stockholm and is an active Columbia ambassador as an Alumni Representative Committee member,

conducting applicant interviews, and as a leader of the Columbia Alumni Association in Sweden.

When not working on her third novel, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her husband, Christian, and son, James. She is also the proud parent of Yasmine '23, and looks forward to visiting the Columbia campus more often, having recently, with Christian and James, helped Yasmine move into her dorm. Jennifer was our new friend and guide, and a delightful representative of alma mater. "Feel free to contact me," Jennifer wants all Lions to know, "if your travels take you to Stockholm: jadahlberg@gmail.com!"

**Herb Zydne SEAS'55**, SEAS'59 represented our class on campus on August 25 as part of the Alumni Procession at Convocation, welcoming the Class of 2023. An estimated 10 alumni from the '50s participated. Herb writes that it was "wonderful to see the 1,400 freshmen ready to learn and grow on campus. Greetings from President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini carried insightful welcoming messages, including thoughts on the campus challenges of supporting speaking the truth and making comments that could be considered offensive, under the guise of free speech. Two of my co-attendees were grandfathers of freshmen."

**Stanley Fine PS'57** wants to share some future joy, reporting, "In February my wife and I are planning to fly to New Zealand and cruise to Samoa, Bora Bora, Tahiti, etc. We are obviously very excited."

As we all are for you both, Stan. We have visited family in New Zealand, and just want to alert you — there are 5 million people and 50 million sheep.

"Finally hit the age — 87 — where when somebody asks me, 'How do you feel?' I can honestly say, 'Fine!'" writes **Saul Turteltaub LAW'57**. "I can honestly say it if they ask me when I'm sitting or lying down. But standing or walking with my cane or my walker, I can't fool anyone. However, doctors assure me in four months I'll be FINE! So, I can't wait for the next Class Notes to see how I am. Hope you all are well."

Indeed, Saul, we all are weller whenever we hear from you — keep writing!

"In May, my wife, Ann Louise, and I made a road trip from Washington, D.C., to Knoxville, Tenn. (where we saw her Mount Holyoke College '54 classmate)," writes **Edward Cowan**, "then to Cincinnati, where we had lunch with **Brian Tansey**; his daughter, Eira Tansey; and Eira's husband, Justin Levy. We lunched in the restaurant of the retirement community where Brian has been living since he had a stroke last autumn. Brian's mobility is diminished (he uses a walker) but, the stroke notwithstanding, his thinking and speech remain clear and well-focused. He and I took a trip up memory lane back to 1958, when I visited him in south central Kentucky, where he was pastor at a couple of Presbyterian churches. In time, Brian and the churches came to a parting of the ways and he became an administrator of retirement homes. Brian has been married twice and has four daughters. He was unable to attend our 65th class reunion and sent good wishes to all."

Thanks, Edward and Brian, for connecting, and be well.

En route from Cincinnati to Washington, the Cowans visited the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pa., which honors the courageous passengers who were on United Flight 93 on 9-11. The passengers' heroism prevented the hijackers from crashing the plane, probably into the United States Capitol. Says Edward, "The memoir evokes memories of 9-11, and is deeply affecting."

To return, in conclusion, to the theme at the top of this column, before our week in Stockholm,

Helen and I spent several days in Halberstadt, Germany (in the former East Zone), where I have been speaking and lecturing for about five years to audiences of high school students and adults. I use the Washington, D.C., United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's challenge of "Never Stop Asking Why," and am gratified particularly when 16- and 17-year-olds thank me afterward for my message and tell me that they have accepted and taken it to heart. Basically, I tell them it is no longer "our" world but theirs to fix what has been broken. They are especially appreciative that I do not avoid any issues; neither WWII veterans nor Holocaust survivors will still be able to bear witness for long.

That's it, Class of Destiny, for this issue and this decade. We WILL celebrate our 70th reunion, and our Reunion Committee is in formation. At this juncture, we need you to sign up, share your ideas, and become part of the story NOW. Be well, do well, do good, never stop asking why. Write, email, call — and see you in the Spring 2020 Class Notes.

Excelsior!

## 1955

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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ccaa-events@columbia.edu

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It's the 100-year anniversary of the Core Curriculum. The kickoff event on September 27 featured speeches from President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini and was held in Low Library in front of a turn-away crowd. Other notables who attended were **Anthony Viscusi** and **Elliot Gross**.

Many different events will take place this coming year, especially our 65th reunion. We hope that a lot of classmates will attend. **Jim Berick** from Cleveland; **Stan Lubman** from California; **Lee Rodgers** from Los Angeles; **Jerry Plasse** from Montana; **Bob Dillingham**, **Mel Holden**,



Several 1950s alumni represented their class decade on August 25 at Convocation, to welcome the Class of 2023, by marching with their decade banner in the Alumni Procession.





**Daniel De Palma**, **David Gordon** and **Berish Strauch** from Westchester; **Herb Cooper** and **Barry Pariser** from Newburgh, N.Y.; Rochester, N.Y.'s own **Beryl Nusbaum**; **Dan Hovey**; **Ross Grumet** from Atlanta; and **Milt Finegold** from Houston, who is looking for **Herb Rubinowitz**. We also heard from **Jack Stupp**, who had a showing in Northern California. [Editor's note: See "Lions," this issue.]

The latest *U.S. News & World Report* ranking showed Columbia as number 3, just below Princeton and Harvard.

**Chuck Solomon** has been doing yeoman work for the Dental School.

We hope to hear from **Ted Ditchek** from Phoenix, **Ron Dubner** from Bethesda, Md., and **Evan Gerakas** from Boca Raton, Fla.

The Homecoming 2019 football game took place in front of a big crowd, as we played our archrival, Penn. We can't forget the basketball program, as it opened against Wake Forest and number 1-ranked UVA.

Keep your sunny side up. The whole world smiles with you. Continue with your good habits; you'll be a better person for it.

Love to all! Everywhere!

## 1956

**Robert Siroty**  
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Not a lot of news from this past summer. My wife, Margo, and I took a river cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna.

Word arrived that **Alvin Pouissant** has retired as professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He is known for his scholarly papers and his position as medical advisor to *The Cosby Show*. And we have received word of the death of **David Nitzberg**.

At the time of writing, Margo and I had just returned from her 60th reunion at Syracuse University, and were deeply impressed by the amount of planning that goes into such an event. I realize that by the time anyone reads this, it will be 18 months until our 65th. So, if there is any possibility that you will join us for the first weekend in June 2021, send me a note at rrs76@columbia.edu. It's not a commitment, but will

help in planning. And, even better, let me know if you would like to help in such planning.

Send me some news, so I don't have to use filler. Stay busy. Stay healthy.

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
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From **Gary Angleberger**: "As fall approached, I was reminded of that time of the year in my first couple of years at Columbia (1953–55). Because I was on a National Scholarship, I thought I needed to use any opportunity I could find to earn a little bit of money in my freshman and sophomore years. When I heard about the possibility of earning some money by selling refreshments at the fall football games at Baker Field, I applied for the job and was immediately accepted. So my whole freshman year, while I was at all of the home games, I never really saw all of the game. While touchdowns were being scored (and, at that time, there were not too many being scored by the Light Blue), I was wandering through the stands selling soft drinks. I became much more interested in Columbia football when my good friend **Claude Benham** of Portsmouth, Va., became the varsity quarterback and passed the Lions to a few victories.

"Claude and I became friends through our partnership on the Columbia varsity baseball team for three years. We were the double-play combination of the team. While I don't remember our win/loss records during those years, we had a good time playing and making trips to all the other Ivy League baseball stadiums. In those days, Yale was the team to beat and I think we may have accomplished that once or twice. Some years after graduation I had the good fortune of visiting Claude in his home in Virginia. He is one of those steady persons who change little with the passage of years. The years do sweeten our memories."

From **Ed Weinstein**: "**Carlos Muñoz** and I (and our wives) attended Convocation on August 25. We joined in representing CC'57 in the Alumni Procession and then settled into our seats to listen to remarks provided by the deans and

others to the Class of 2023 (which includes two of my wife Sandra's and my granddaughters). President Lee C. Bollinger delivered a well-organized and intelligent presentation on the purpose of the University.

"He also noted that Columbia does not offer its space to uninvited speakers with a message, but offers a podium to speakers, whether part of the CU community or invited guests. CU does not censor presentations of ideas that are unpopular and that may be unsettling to many. He noted, however, that those delivering controversial messages would have to defend them in intellectual exchange. In discussion later, all in our party, including our son and daughter, their spouses and our 16-year-old grandson, agreed that it was worth the time to listen to the presentation. Three generations agreed that the message was both appropriate and well developed."

I received word from his widow, Susan, that **Dan Davidson** L'AW'59 died on September 13, 2019, at his home in Washington D.C.

Yours truly attended the annual meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA) in San Francisco, August 8–10. I remained in the Bay Area through August 16 for visits with my sister and with friends. My sister and I, among other things, visited the Haas-Lilienthal House, San Francisco's "only intact residential Victorian house museum open to the public" (according to its handout); the Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, with its Readers Bookstore and SFMOMA Artists Gallery; and the restful Japanese Tea Garden. I revisited one of my favorites, the Asian Art Museum, with its vast collection of art from various countries of Asia and its excellent gift shop. In the background is the magnificent Beaux Arts domed City Hall. My friends, a couple I have known from law school, and I, among other things, visited the extensive Stanford University campus, especially the Rodin sculpture garden.

I then proceeded to Seattle for visits with an ABA colleague and a friend. My colleague and I had dinner at a restaurant specializing in salmon. My friend and I took a long walk through Pike Place Market, with its almost innumerable shops and restaurants. As one enters, there appears the colorful fish market, where the salespersons toss whole

fish. Not far away are shops selling exotic canned goods. There also are shops selling leather goods, jewelry and various costumes. You name it; most likely you will find what you want, and then some. I also went through the market on my own.

On my last day in Seattle, I visited the Seattle Art Museum, with its outstanding collection of paintings and other art objects. There was a particularly outstanding collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings from the art museum in Birmingham, England, which I had visited in January 2018. To crown my visit, I took the elevator to the top of the Space Needle for a panoramic view and photos of the Seattle area.

## 1958

**Peter Cohn**  
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New York, NY 10025  
petercohn1939@gmail.com

**Larry Margolies** and his wife, Sylvia, visited NYC in July in connection with the Off-Broadway opening of the play *Mejada* at the Public Theater. My wife, Joan, and I were pleased to join the couple and their Chicago friends and colleagues that evening. We learned quite a bit about the origins of the play from Sylvia (who is on the board of the Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago). She explained that the play is an adaption of the Greek tragedy *Medea*, but now the central characters are Mexican immigrants illegally in the United States. All in all, a delightful evening at the theater to see a well-received play.

Larry notes: "Both Sylvia and I have been theater enthusiasts for many years. Chicago has more than 250 theaters, from huge theaters hosting road shows to small storefronts with 40 or so seats. This selection leads to many opportunities to attend performances, whether they be traditional or experimental opera, drama from the ancient Greeks or new works. We have been most connected with the 40-year-old nonprofit theater Victory Gardens. That is where most of our support of the arts goes. The theater won a regional Tony Award for excellence a few years ago, and we think it is



stronger and more relevant than ever before. *Mojada* is typical, since it speaks about illegal immigrants and their problems. Recent plays have considered gentrification, urban corruption, racism in Chicago and South Africa, call centers in India, adoption, relations between neighbors, murder over the theft of sneakers, reintroduction to society after imprisonment, human sexuality and the Cambodian genocide."

Now a word about Columbia athletics: This column is being written as the football season begins. I am looking forward to joining classmates on beautiful fall afternoons at the Baker Athletics Complex to watch a very competitive team in its quest for that elusive Ivy League Championship. Then, in November, basketball will begin, with our best team in the last few years. But more about that in the next issue!

Reminder: The class lunch is usually held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). Email **Tom Ettinger** if you plan to attend, even up to the day before: tpe3@columbia.edu.

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
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New York, NY 10025  
nmgc59@gmail.com

Our reunion is over, and it will be a while before our next, so Class

Notes are one way we connect to each other. Please share your activities with your classmates.

I heard from Ellen Offner in early July that her husband, **Arnie Offner**, "had an aortic dissection about 10 weeks ago followed by two major surgeries. He is now recuperating at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown, Mass., one of the top such places in the United States. He is expected to recover fully over the coming weeks."

**Allan Franklin** writes, "My most recent book, *Is It the Same Result? Replication in Physics*, was published in October 2018."

From **Ira Lieberman** GSAS'69: "I'm very sorry to have missed the reunion dinner but was regrettably out of town. I haven't written to you before because I wanted to finish my project since retiring from the first violin section of the Metropolitan Opera. I do treasure my years at Columbia, earning a B.A. in '59, master's in '61 and a Ph.D. (in musicology) in '69.

"I taught music at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas (1965–69), and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond (1972–75,) conducting orchestras at both. I was also chief music critic for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* during my three years there. Then I accepted the position of principal second violin with the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels.

"After returning to New York I began 35 years of playing with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, with many of the world's greatest conductors (as well as some not-so-great

ones). In the summers I played with the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Casals Festival and with a summer program for young singers based in Lucca, Italy. I am an original member of The New York Pops and still play with them at Carnegie Hall.

"My varied experiences led to intense consideration of the process of music making, resulting in my book *Leaders of the Band: A Violinist Discusses Conductors and Conducting at the Metropolitan Opera*. It is designed primarily to aid aspiring conductors with frank suggestions regarding both positive and negative approaches to conducting opera. It also informs musicians and the public about the nature of the collaborative experience in the pit. After an enthusiastic response from colleagues in orchestras around the globe, I have started the second volume. I recently received my copyright and can now begin to approach publishers."

From **Murray Epstein** PS'63: "Although I was unable to attend our 60th reunion because of overlapping family commitments, I heard how successful it was from **Joel Rein** and **Herb Dean**, who attended. My interactions with Joel, Herb and **Bob Burd** encouraged me to write a brief update of my life.

"Following graduation from the College, I attended P&S, and received my medical degree in 1963. I retired from academic medicine in 2009, after 39 years, where I was a professor of medicine in the nephrology division of the University of Miami. It was an exciting run, and very productive and rewarding.

"Following my Air Force stint at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine in San Antonio, where I conducted research on the effects of simulated space flight on kidney function, including hypobaric, weightlessness and Gz forces, I joined the faculty at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. There I was able to continue my studies and to pioneer a new field of research: 'kidney function during manned space flight.' My studies were supported primarily by research grants from NASA, and resulted in more than 30 peer-reviewed publications in medical and physiological journals.

"I was also invited to serve as a renal expert at a major global summit of experts convened by the National Academy of Sciences'

Space Science Board. Our meeting resulted in a white paper that established the template for future directions of research in the physiology of manned space flight. The recent worldwide celebrations of *Apollo 11* and the 50th anniversary of the first successful lunar landing served as a lovely reminder of my participation in this program.

"My other research efforts were successful in establishing/enhancing two major spheres of clinical medicine:

"1. Leading efforts to advance our knowledge and development of a newly discovered class of drugs labeled calcium antagonists (or calcium channel blockers) as formidable drugs to treat not only ischemic heart disease and hypertension, but also unique applications such as a role in protection of kidney function. Based on my studies, I also edited three editions of the premier medical textbook in the field, *Calcium Antagonists in Clinical Medicine*.

"2. More recently I focused my research efforts on extending the utility of aldosterone blockers (now labeled MRAs, or mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists) in ameliorating both congestive heart failure and chronic kidney disease. My contributions helped in part initiate a major global study investigating whether these drugs can confer clinical benefit.

"In my present quasi-retirement, I co-chair a global clinical effort — the FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD clinical studies. Now in their fourth year, these clinical studies have enrolled more than 30,400 patients with diabetes mellitus at more than 2,100 clinical sites in more than 70 countries. My involvement in these studies entails chairing the data safety monitoring committee, which is responsible for continual surveillance of the enrolled patients to ensure that adverse events are detected early and preemptively, and it is our charge to jointly decide when the studies should be stopped for either good outcomes (benefit) or for bad outcomes (adverse events). My participation entails my spending more than 25 percent of my time in overseeing the conduct of these ongoing studies. Lots of work, but quite fulfilling and I hope to achieve a good outcome with clinical benefit for diabetic patients with heart and/or kidney disease.

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What's a fun way to note it?  
Poetry from you.



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"My free time is spent with my family and friends. My wife, Nina, and I reside in Miami but our children are geographically dispersed — our eldest son, David '01, and daughter, Susanna '03, live in New York City, and our youngest son, Jonathan '07, is in Norman, Okla. We Epsteins can claim to constitute a quintuple Columbia legacy. I hope Nina and I will be able to attend our next class reunion."

**Bob Ratner** writes about a revered teacher, William Cornell Casey: "In my junior year at Columbia I was unsure of my academic direction and, more broadly, of my purpose in life. I had excelled in the Core's Humanities program and sampled the sciences with mixed interest and regret, but no area of study loomed as a preferred major. A friend, aware of my confusion, suggested that I attend a class taught by one of his professors in the sociology department. I agreed to do so without knowledge of the professor or of sociology, relying solely on his earnest recommendation.

"I came to the class early to ensure a seat and waited expectantly for the professor to arrive. When Professor Casey entered the room, I was struck by his stately appearance — tall, erect, but of gentle bearing, his intense blue eyes lit with anticipation of the hour ahead. All at once, I felt a surge of joy and sense of relief that I had found someone who might fulfill my meandering quest for intellectual and moral guidance. I was no less taken by his lecture, which seemed to pry open my imagination at every turn, and by the end of the hour I had the unfamiliar but welcome sensation that I knew my destiny.

"Over the next two years I went full bore into sociology, taking whatever was on offer, including all of Professor Casey's courses, which were always an exquisite adventure. His classes ranged from examination of everyday case studies, to the strengths and foibles of Athenian democracy, to the workings of the British Royal Commission, to the lofty elocutions of contemporary theorists grappling with the contradictions of modernity. Almost magically tying it all together in his incisive chalk board method of presentation, unaided by notes or written lectures, was the theme of how language can symbolically mislead

and miscast reality, diverting us from real solutions to social problems. Those who wanted more of Professor Casey's astounding erudition and lucidity could find him endlessly accessible in his book-lined office on the second floor of Fayerweather Hall, standing comfortable amidst antique desk chairs and piles of literary and political magazines such as *The Listener*, which he encouraged us to read. Before long, we came to understand why those who preceded us had dubbed his courses 'Caseyology,' in acknowledgment of their unique quality, and why his courses had been voted the best at Columbia by nearly three decades of graduates.

"Our last class with Professor Casey — his last class prior to retirement — was particularly memorable. After finishing his lecture he took questions, as always, and one student asked what singular thought students, now about to graduate, should take out to the world; whereupon, Professor Casey, without a hint of theatricality, answered, 'Oh, you don't have to ask me that. Just do as the Good Lord said, "Walk humbly and do justly."' There was a hush, and then the class, in unison, rose to applaud. The professor nodded his thanks and gracefully exited. The applause continued, and as I looked around for confirmation of my own feelings, I could see tears streaming down the faces of some students, everyone visibly moved but already saddened by the realization that we may have heard the last of someone who was not only a superb teacher, but also a rare, irreplaceable human being.

"After graduating with my B.A., I continued to see Professor Casey occasionally, visiting him at his apartment in Butler Hall on Morningside Heights, often with one or two other students, where we talked through the night and early morning, fortified by sherry and orange juice, and the lethal addiction to cigarettes, a habit for which the professor later paid dearly. Our conversations drew on current events, historical anecdotes and the literary passages that Professor Casey would have us read, especially those he selected from *The Knights of the Round Table*, as our little troupe was intuitively likened to a facsimile of that hallowed circle. How privileged we felt to spend long hours in unbounded dialogue with our cherished professor.

"On January 18, 1960, I received the first of my letters from Professor Casey, wherein he informed me that he had sent a recommendation on my behalf to Yale University which, indeed, helped me to obtain a fellowship and pursue my métier in sociology. In his inimitably gracious words: 'Always remember that I consider it a privilege to write, no less than think, in your behalf. How could I do less for one like yourself who so often, perceptively, struck a light when the path through the imponderables of my own classwork last year bogged and dimmed. I shall be eternally grateful to you for that.'

"In the summer of my second year at Yale, a fellow Caseyite and I decided to visit the famed Oneida Community in upstate New York, a utopian commune established in 1848 that Professor Casey lectured about, which had once advocated free love and communal child-rearing, and was highly respected for its industrial entrepreneurship culminating in the worldwide Oneida flatware company. On the way, we impulsively detoured to the country estate of our beloved professor in Mexico Point off the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, where he had spent most of his summers since 1931. We parked on a dusty road, traipsed across some adjacent yards, espied his cottage and finally beheld Professor Casey tending to a rosebush in his trim English garden. We called out to him and he rose to his full height, a little startled, exclaiming, 'Well, I'll be!' With that salutation cheerily received, we spent the afternoon chatting about the progress of our studies and touring the English manor that he and a close friend had built from the remains of an old carriage-house once belonging to the Mexico Point Hotel that burned down in 1951, and which was now on a life-lease to Professor Casey. The walls and beams of the house were carved with 11th-century figures and old English writings drawn from King Arthur legends, which combined with the stained-glass windows, rustic fireplace and chapel dedicated to his mother on the second floor, seemed perfectly suited to his medieval tastes, oddly contrasting with his innovative, progressive ideas. My friend and I reflected quietly on our remarkable surprise visit as we motored toward Oneida later that day." (To be continued.)

I will be including other reminiscences in future Class Notes, including presentations made at reunion.

## 1960

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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Development Contact  
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Calendar rapidly advancing toward another Class Notes deadline. Mailbox wide with vacant space. An urgent hope for some news. **Lee Rosner** responds. It is not the kind of news that ever I would hope to receive. Lee's note is a sad reminder of our mortality and contained a link to an obituary: **Bill Engler** GSAS'65 died on August 17, 2019.

Obituaries always contain a chronicle of the items on one's résumé: educational background; employment history; professional achievements. But rarely do they expose the human element — the essence of one's persona. This obituary, however, captured many of the distinctive attributes that defined Bill.

I'll get to those, but first, the résumé. Bill attended Friends Seminary in Manhattan. He entered the College, majored in English and earned his varsity "C" running track and cross country. After earning a master's in English at GSAS, he began teaching English and communications at Mercer County Community College, in New Jersey, where he remained until his retirement in 2004. While teaching full time, Bill completed an Ed.D. at Rutgers University in 1973, receiving the award for the best doctoral thesis that year from the Graduate School of Education. He then went on to teach part-time at the graduate school for several years. During his career at Mercer County Community College Bill chaired the Academic Skills Department and received the Distinguished Teaching Award.

There was more to Bill than that. The obituary noted, "Bill was a dedicated teacher who loved the art of teaching and his students knew that.



With humor and wit, he taught all students, from those enrolled in basic English courses to those in advanced literature, to think and write clearly and to love reading in the process. He served as a role model for his colleagues, whom he regaled at the lunch table with vibrant and hilarious conversation. Lunch with Bill was the absolute high point of everyone's day. During his lifetime, Bill faced many health challenges, foremost of which was multiple sclerosis, which was diagnosed in his mid-20s. With the same characteristic determination he displayed in his life, he devoted himself to 'beating' the disease by exercising vigorously and leading a healthy lifestyle. He rode his bicycle thousands of miles and rowed on his rowing machine for almost as many. He served as an inspiration to all who knew him."

Contemplating Bill's death elicited countless memories; I'll share one, which will surely resonate with many of the New Yorkers in our class. Bill and I prearrange to meet at Jerome Avenue and East 164th Street in the Bronx on December 21, 1958. We enter a drugstore to purchase a box of cigarillos, then cross the street and head for the Yankee Stadium ticket office. Skies are clear; the weather intense — a biting cold. The Eastern Conference Championship of the NFL resulted in a tie between the Cleveland Browns and the New York Giants. A one-game playoff will decide the championship this afternoon. We will sit in the bleachers. A bleacher seat costs 50 cents. The ticket clerk suggests that we consider two

seats in the end zone. The seats are much closer to the field; a roof overhang affords protection from the elements; the price is heavily discounted — not much more than bleacher seats — as the roof and a pillar label them "partially obstructed views" which, the clerk advises, is true for baseball where one might lose sight of the arc of a fly ball, but the sightlines for football are unimpaired. We take the end-zone seats. The ticket clerk's description is accurate. We settle down to watch what will become a football classic. It's a masterpiece of defensive play. In the first quarter, Charlie Conerly takes a snap and tosses the ball to Frank Gifford, who draws the Browns defense, then swerves to lateral the ball back to Conerly, who takes it in for a touchdown. That's the only touchdown scored that day. The extra point is good. In the second quarter, Pat Summerall kicks a field goal — the last points scored in the game. Giants 10, Browns 0.

Both defenses are fierce and produce some remarkable statistics: A record eight turnovers. The Giants fumble six times, but turn the ball over only twice. A rookie fielded by the Giants as their punt returner — a super-fast, skinny kid from Texas — can't hold onto the pigskin. On each of his fumbles Billy and I join an earsplitting chorus of groans and imprecations that shake the walls of the old stadium. At the end of the season the Giants release the kid. He is picked up by the AFL's Titans of New York, which joins the NFL as the New York Jets, and, there,

the kid — Don Maynard — breaks records in a long, brilliant career that culminates with his induction in the Pro Football of Fame.

At halftime, word spreads that fans in the bleachers set fires in the trash receptacles to keep warm. Billy and I are more discreet in dealing with the cold. Smoking is permitted in the stadium: Neither Bill nor I smoke. Throughout the game, as conditions warrant, we light a succession of cigarillos over which we warm our hands.

The second half is all defense. The Giants' defensive coordinator, Vince Lombardi, has his middle linebacker key on the Browns fullback on every play. Sam Huff holds the legendary Jimmy Brown to a total of 8 yards on a dozen carries. This game and the ensuing league championship in which the Giants beat the Baltimore Colts are still regarded as two of the finest games ever played in the NFL.

On December 21, 1958, this Bronx lad witnessed a thrilling event, and experiencing it with a boon companion made it a lifelong memory. It was like that with Bill. In our circle of commuters who met every day on campus for lunch, Bill was a sparkplug, with a gift of boundless energy that radiated wit, warmth and intelligence. Time spent with Bill was always uplifting. It was a complete surprise to me that he had MS or any other health issue. I regarded Bill as the very picture of health: trim, athletic, a fitness buff, full of life and always upbeat. I remember our foot race — a sprint in Riverside Park. I'll leave it at that except to say that his acceleration absolutely amazed me. I suppose it was fitting that he ran track and I sat pulling an oar on a sliding seat in an eight-oared shell on crew.

Lee Rosner echoed my sentiments: "Billy (I never got used to 'Bill') was sweet and funny and kind and smart. He was dedicated to giving kids a great junior college experience and apparently excelled at it. I will really miss him."

Andy Feuerstein has this remembrance: "Bill was smart, witty, humorous, literate and sensitive, and had a flair for storytelling. I well remember his tales of the 'Rat Pack' and other Las Vegas characters after he had worked a summer at the iconic Sands Hotel and Casino, where his uncle was involved in operations. Bill was a terrific athlete

and we enjoyed many games of half-court, three-man basketball in the Columbia gym after classes, before we headed back on the subway to our respective commuter homes. We reconnected at the 50th reunion, where I learned that Bill had battled MS since his 20s. His resilience and heroism were apparent; he did not seem to miss a beat. We stayed in touch intermittently since then. When we spoke earlier this year, he told me of his joy leading an active book group of retirees where the reading list included some of the 'Great Books' we read in Humanities. It was also clear how much he appreciated the closeness he shared with his dear wife, Fran. I understand from Fran that the reading group members are devastated by Bill's passing. I will miss Bill and feel a loss for not having been in closer contact these past many years."

I write this with a heart, heavy that one of my dearest college friends is gone, buoyant that it was my extraordinary good fortune to have had him as a friend, comforted that he lived his life doing what he loved best and, in the process, touched so many lives, enriching them intellectually and personally, leaving wonderful, endearing memories with so many.

Our deepest condolences to Fran, Bill's wife of 55 years, his two daughters and two grandsons, and to all who were his students and colleagues.

## 1961

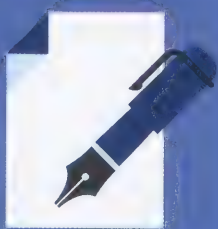
Michael Hausig  
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Bob Salman LAW'64, while serving as a member of New Jersey's Council on Local Mandates, is participating in a case involving New Jersey's mail ballot law. He has also been appointed to serve on a panel of NYC's Contract Dispute Resolution Board in a case involving the City Island Bridge Replacement project, chairs two FINRA arbitration cases and is a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee.

Avrum Bluming's book *Estrogen Matters: Why Taking Hormones in Menopause Can Improve Women's Well-Being and Lengthen Their Lives — Without Raising the Risk of Breast*

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Arnie Intrater '61 (left) and Jim Mathews '61 met in Maine in August to celebrate their 80th birthdays, which are two weeks apart.

*Cancer*, written with social psychologist Carol Tavris and published last year, has had a second printing in the United States. It has also been published in the United Kingdom as *Oestrogen Matters* and in Germany as *Östrogen*.

Mickey Greenblatt's son Mark was confirmed by the United States Senate as inspector general of the Department of the Interior on August 1.

Arnie Intrater and Jim Mathews met in Maine in August to celebrate their 80th birthdays, which are two weeks apart. Arnie traveled from Washington, D.C., where he lives several months a year when not residing in Boynton Beach, Fla. He retired from many interesting high-level governmental positions practicing law in Washington, D.C. Jim drove from Silver City, N.M., where he now resides after retiring 10 years ago from teaching psychology at the University of Hartford for 43 years.

Joel Pitt and his wife, Marie, rented out their home in Princeton September 1–May 31 and plan to spend nine months exploring the Southern Hemisphere. At this writing, they had not firmed up plans for the full trip and will likely not make plans in detail for more than a month or two in advance. They started with a five-day visit to their son James Womack's ecotourist resort Equilibrio Surf Art Yoga in Las Salinas de Nahualapa, Nicaragua. From there, they went

to Panama City and environs for a week before moving on to Bocas del Toro, Panama, to take four weeks of Spanish lessons and loll on the beach. The remainder of the trip was still in the planning process at the time of this note.

Louis "Bernie" Muench SEAS'62, BUS'65 writes that after the College, he spent two years in the Engineering School, worked for a period and then earned a degree in finance from the Business School, ending with a B.A., B.S.E.E. and M.B.A.

After graduate school, Bernie worked in finance for Cummins Engine Co. for three years. Then, the Business School's dean of placement, Fred Way, helped him to identify an opportunity at Ford. Bernie moved to Ford Car Product Planning, working on the Mustang. Several years later he moved from car planning to truck planning. Lee Iacocca and Hal Sperlich, creators of the Ford Mustang and Chrysler minivan, were among his bosses and mentors. Subsequently, Bernie became responsible for all Ford light truck product planning.

For 1976, the federal government mandated unleaded gasoline for cars and light trucks under 6,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight, because lead contaminated the catalysts that the automotive industry needed to use to meet evolving emission standards. The government also mandated a 50,000-mile emission-certification test for each vehicle-engine-transmission combination offered for sale.

This was a major issue. It required every filling station in the nation to install new unleaded-fuel tanks and fuel pumps. The Ford challenge was to test and certify more than 100 vehicle-engine-transmission combinations, each test costing more than \$1 million. Ford had the money and provided it to the responsible test manager. But, there was a problem. The responsible test manager did not have the drivers, garage or test facilities to do the testing. He was caught making up test results, fired and replaced with another engineer.

After several unsuccessful efforts to meet the new product standard, Ford approached Bernie for a recommended solution. His proposal to meet the new fuel standard, compete with Chevrolet and remain in compliance with the new law's unique model was accepted and implemented successfully. That truck

was the F-150. The F-150 ultimately became the best-selling pickup in North America.

At 80, Bernie has been thinking and writing, mostly for his grandchildren, about his life choices and luck. Some bad decisions did not result in consequences as bad as possible, and some good decisions had consequences better than expected, so his run has been good. He hopes all of us can say the same as we enter our ninth decade.

On a sad note, Luke Urban passed away in his sleep on August 3.

In more sad news, Bob Ladau received a clipping from a Guatemala publication that disclosed that Alan Plihal died and was buried in Guatemala in September 2017.

Alan was a member of Alpha Delta Phi and was part of the fencing team for four years. After graduation, Alan returned to Guatemala, where he ultimately took over the reins of the family business that produced automobile tires and shoes in Central America.

In the 1970s, political upheavals in Guatemala forced Alan and his family to move to Key Biscayne, Fla. Alan required hospitalization for some injuries incurred as a result of the upheavals.

## 1962

John Freidin  
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Travelin' John Garman writes, "Last spring, my wife, Nancy, and I had a wonderful four-day trip with a 13-member Road Scholar group to visit historical sites in Philadelphia. On the top of my list was the Barnes Foundation. This museum holds the largest collection of Impressionist art outside of Paris.

"While there we dined at The Victor Cafe. Its Italian food was outstanding. And all the waitstaff — both male and female — were opera soloists. So, our dinner was punctuated by arias in Italian and German.

"I'm thinking about making a donation to the College. Nothing big. Fifty years ago, I tried to give a little amount to what was then known as the Dean's Fund. It was a discretionary fund the dean could use to help students who ran out of

\$\$\$.

I know, because I had that need a number of times.

"When I asked to have my little contribution put in the Dean's Fund, I was told all such contributions had to be put into the College's big, general operating fund!

"But then, guess what? When I called the Dean's Office last month, I was referred to a special administrative office, which told me, 'Sure, we can put that kind of contribution into a special fund that the dean can use for students who have emergencies like you described.'

"Thought this might interest some of our classmates.

"That's all for now. Off to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; then Nice, Loire Valley and Paris; and finally Chautauqua, N.Y., for my annual Road Scholar foreign affairs conference. Hope I come through in one piece!"

Bernie Patten PS'66's latest book-like object, *Neurology Rounds with the Maverick: Adventures with Patients from the Golden Age of Medicine*, was published in September. Bernie culled from his decades of practice the most interesting and unusual patient stories. He says, "Some are funny, some not so funny, some happy, some sad, some terrible — but all real." Bernie's publisher created the title, and Bernie eventually figured out who the Maverick was. But he didn't reveal that to CCT. He says classmates might enjoy the book. It's available as a download for \$1.99!

Dave Nathan was a good high school golfer. At Columbia he was a backbencher on the golf team. But in the 1970s he lost his way and took up tennis. Now he has morphed into a "Cal (Iron Man) Ripken" in the 20-team, suburban Washington, D.C., senior tennis league where he plays. His partners and opponents are often former college stalwarts and occasionally former U.S. Open doubles players. But Dave holds the league endurance record: More than 300 matches during the last 20 years! And he claims to look forward to many more years of injury-free tennis. His success stems partly from attending adult tennis camp in Vermont.

Larry Wittner GSAS'67, professor of history emeritus at SUNY's University of Albany, is enjoying his retirement from teaching. This past spring, he completed a three-year term as co-chair of the national



board of Peace Action, America's largest peace organization, which grew out of the merger between the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and the Nuclear Freeze Campaign. Larry continues to pursue his dedication to building a world without war, and recently accepted positions as a board member of both the Peace Action Fund of New York State and the Citizens for Global Solutions Education Fund. In March, Larry traveled with a small group of concerned New Yorkers to Vieques, P.R., to learn about the history of and current conditions on that small Puerto Rican island, which was for decades a bombing range for the Navy until irate residents secured a shutdown of military operations there.

As a union delegate of United University Professions Joint Labor Management Committees, Larry was for six years executive secretary of the AFL-CIO New York City Central Labor Council before stepping down to become a member of its executive committee. One of its key campaigns in the past year was an effort to secure county legislation to guarantee workers paid sick days. "Unfortunately," Larry wrote, "powerful business interests managed to block adoption of the legislation. But the campaign will continue."

Although he no longer writes scholarly books, Larry frequently pens op-eds. Focused primarily on issues of war, peace and economic equality, they usually first appear on the website of the History News Network and are subsequently picked up by other publications.

Larry maintains contact with **Mike Weinberg** (now active in local Democratic Party politics in Oregon) and **Charlie Nadler** (retired from legal practice in Colorado and posting lots of pointed political messages on Facebook). Mike and Charlie, as well as lots of other Columbia students, appear in Larry's autobiography, *Working for Peace and Justice: Memoirs of an Activist Intellectual*, in the chapter devoted to his years at Columbia.

**John Joyce** writes, "Maybe because my classmates and I are approaching (or have reached) 80, the following may be of interest. At the funeral of my youngest brother this past February, I spoke with a former sister-in-law, whom I had not seen for more than 40 years. I asked her if she recalled that when Baker Field was being demolished in 1982, I had asked her former husband (my other brother, who worked in NYC) if he would go to Baker Field to ask the workers whether he could take parts of any bleacher seats on which was painted the number '62.' I thought it would be an interesting piece of memorabilia. My brother brought several sections of the seats to his home in New Jersey. I was living in Maryland then. After my brother and his wife divorced, I never thought about the bleacher seats until I saw her at my youngest brother's funeral. She said she was still living in the house where she and my brother had lived. Then, to my surprise, she told me that the bleacher seats were still lying on the rafters of her garage, where my brother put them in 1982. I asked her to take pictures of the bleacher seats and then discard them."

"Many memories of our senior year sitting in Baker Field — when Columbia won the Ivy League football championship — were brought back by the pictures."

**Stephen Larsen**, with his wife, Robin Larsen, was on the founding Board of Advisors of the Joseph Campbell Foundation and also founded The Center for Symbolic Studies to carry on Campbell's work. Stephen is best known for his work in mythology and for being a pioneer in the field of neurofeedback.

Stephen earned a Ph.D. at Union Institute & University. He is now a professor emeritus of psychology at SUNY Ulster (Ulster County Community College). He has trained

with Jungian training analyst Edward Whitmont and Stanislav Grof, as well as with Campbell in the understanding of myth and symbol.

For the last 10 years, Stephen has been working closely with Len Ochs, innovator/originator of the LENS neurofeedback technique, and researching its potential. In 2003, they jointly presented "Fundamentals of the LENS Method: Using EEG Driven Stimulation to Work with the Clinical Spectrum of Problems: Special Emphasis on the Neurologically Sensitive Patient" at the International Neurofeedback Organization Conference in Houston. Their work is documented in Stephen's new book on LENS, which is also featured on Ochs's website. For more on Stephen's intriguing work, take a look at [stonemountaincenter.com](http://stonemountaincenter.com).

## 1963

**Paul Neshamkin**  
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Another academic year is underway at the College. If we were still students, it would be our 60th. I missed Convocation in August for the first time in a while, but **Doron Gopstein** was there to welcome the first-years. He reports: "I had the pleasure of speaking briefly to three or four groups of the new freshmen, who were spread out as usual in groups of about 15 all over South Field with their classmates and their enthusiastic senior student guides. Wished them well for four wonderful years and tried [to give] one or two pieces of advice. They seemed to listen in awe (or shock?) when I told them that we were doing exactly this with our new classmates (with beanies then) exactly 60 years ago, and, to give a sense of time, that John F. Kennedy would be elected President the following year, the Vietnam War had not started yet, Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I have a dream speech' would be five years later, Watergate 13 years later and 9–11 not for another 42 years (but they wouldn't remember that because they were born that year). Anyway, they were all very nice and cordial and it was nice to spend a minute or two with them."

We recently celebrated our 150th monthly "Second Thursday Class

Lunch." It's been a wonderful time to enjoy good food and conversation together. A shoutout to the eight classmates who joined me for a September lunch: **Steve Barcan, Henry Black, Ed Collier, Mike Erdos, Doron Gopstein, Bob Heller, Lee Lowenfish and Harvey Schneier**. Please plan on joining us next time you are in NYC.

**Bill Burley** writes, "Driving through Kansas at the moment, having left home in Boulder, Colo., this morning. On our way to Pittsburgh to begin cycling from my wife Suzanne's childhood hometown to Washington, D.C., beginning on September 9. We were married August 2, 1969, and thought this an appropriate way to celebrate 50 years of marriage."

If you friend the Burleys on Facebook, you can follow their adventure in text and pictures.

**Alexis Levitin** sent greetings and reports that he is "uneasily retired after 51 years of teaching. The body is starting to go, but I still love traveling. Spent six weeks in spring visiting the spectacular, awe-inspiring Andes of Peru, including, of course, Machu Picchu. The other high point was a visit to floating reed islands in Lake Titicaca. My translation life continues: *Cattle of the Lord* by Portugal's Rosa Alice Branco, *Palávora* by Brazil's Salgado Maranhão and *Outrage* by Ecuador's Carmen Váscones in the last three years.

"My only grandchild, Hannah, is 3 and a half, but 100 percent a miracle. I remain in touch with **Peter Belfiore**, who never stops writing; **Paul Reale**, who never stops composing; and **Kit Wertz**, who still perfects the language he invented almost 60 years ago."

**Paul Kimmel** writes, "I've been retired from public school teaching since 2012, after 42 years at East Brunswick H.S., but I'm still teaching at Rutgers. I am one of the lecturers in general chemistry and also the administrator of the course, which means writing the exams, doing the grades and answering student email. So with about 1,400 students in the course, that keeps me pretty busy. I'm still an active bicyclist, putting in around 2,000 miles a year on the tandem with my wife, Jane. I'm also still playing the piano, and have performed in local recitals."

**Mike Erdos** writes, "My wife, Caryl, and I have relocated to



## Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





NYC, and I've been enjoying the monthly luncheons with classmates (one request: can we open them to spouses/significant others?). I look forward to seeing everyone again, attending Columbia football games and taking advantage of other activities on campus now that we are so close! As of this writing, the next month, however, will be spent preparing for our daughter's wedding on October 5 in Williamstown, Mass.! We're very excited about this, and are looking forward to it!"

**Elliott Greher** has been married 56 years and has four children, 15 grandchildren (three married) and three great-grandchildren. Of his two sets of twin grandchildren, one set had a twin as an ambulance first responder at the same time his twin was a sharpshooter in the Israel Defense Force (IDF), so both saving lives. Currently, four grandchildren and one spouse are studying in yeshivas. Another five are in college, one is a medical intern and one (a girl) is in the IDF. Elliott moved from New York 51 years ago to Silver Spring, Md. He hopes to move back to New York within the next two years. So much for gardening and suburban, endless driving. Elliott still has a post-retirement (from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission) business selling books and consulting to the adult disabled and aged population. New York will extend his active museum, concert and theater experiences and yet provide more time for reading — and attending Columbia functions.

**Phil Averbuch** writes, "Greetings from Florida. My wife, Judy, and I celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary with a Mediterranean cruise with our entire family. Judy and I attended the May graduation of my grandson Matthew Kronen-gold SEAS'19 from Columbia Engineering, magna cum laude. He now works at Goldman Sachs. A very proud and exciting moment."

**Rich Gochman** writes, "Last summer, **Paul Reale** and his wife, Claire, visited with my wife, Alice, and me in Chatham, N.Y., for a week. We all had a real ball: Carrying on pretty much in the same way as in college and the 50-plus years afterward. We even had water fights in my indoor pool. For the last two days of the visit Paul went to a nearby performance venue, which turns into a recording studio. The Troy Savings

Bank Music Hall, despite its bizarre name, has renowned acoustics with a worldwide reputation and is only a half-hour away.

"For decades, Paul had racked up excellent achievements in the classical music realm with leading performers premiering his work and putting it on their CDs, but it was the performers who had the real clout. In the last few years he has become an A-list rock star in the neoclassic realm. Now Paul selects his pieces and decides who will perform them. He is on a roll — in the last few months he has made three CDs, all of which have received rave reviews from *Gramophone* and *Fanfare*, the leading music periodicals. His three most recently recorded CDs are *Children's Palace MSR Classics MS 1715*, released in April; *Caldera with Ice Cave: Music for Strings MS 1703*, released in May; and *Stroke of Midnight Naxos 8.559879*, released in October. Despite a recent illness, Paul is composing at a frantic rate and has plans and agreements for numerous premieres and CDs in the near future, which he hopes includes another visit with us at Lazy Bear Farm, our home.

"Alice and I continue to enjoy good health and good fortune. We love living on our farm in a house designed for us to support all of our interests and hobbies. A real farmer, who lives only a couple of miles away and is also my best friend in Chatham, does all the actual farming. I make the big decisions like 'grow green stuff, no corn.' I am very interested in the economics and science of agriculture, but I have no interest in actually doing it. To be successful, a farmer has to be smart, work very hard, hope that government doesn't upset their life with trade wars and regulations, and also be lucky. I never tire of looking out the windows. We have full views of the Berkshire and Catskill mountains. We share the place with about 30 deer, bobcats, wild turkeys, foxes, rabbits, birds from eagles to cardinals, and the occasional bear that gives our place its name. Giant trees date from the Civil War. Occasionally we have a modest tree harvest. The tax laws are pretty good, as they should be, since we are capturing CO<sub>2</sub> and producing oxygen. It would be fairer if we were exempt from taxes completely.

"We are active in the Old Chatham Hunt Club. The word 'hunt'

should really be replaced by 'chase.' We do not hunt anything! On foot we follow Beagles that chase rabbits safely into their burrows while foxhunters on horseback follow foxhounds, chasing foxes that always win the race. The club's kennels have more than 100 hounds (if you call them 'dogs' you are severely punished). It is all an excuse to leave the road behind, and get some exercise over hill and dale. And the best part is that when the chase is over, we have a big party. We love to have the club hunt our land — we get a beautiful view without doing anything. I have also co-founded NanoPharmaceuticals, a cancer drug discovery company. On mice and monkeys, results have been very exciting, but there is a long way to go."

**Jack McMullen** writes, "I spent six weeks in Porto, Portugal, in May and June trying to revive the Portuguese I learned on the streets of Brazil many years ago while on a traveling fellowship there. I made good progress, especially after I abandoned the idea of learning both European and Brazilian Portuguese at the same time in different daily classes. I settled on Brazilian Portuguese, and things went much more smoothly. The difference between those two forms of the same language is much greater than the difference between British English and American English. The reason: Brazil has a population of 212 million while Portugal has only 10.5 million, even though it was the parent country. So, lots of TV shows and other media flow from Brazil to Portugal and virtually nothing goes the other way. Therefore, the Portuguese are familiar with Brazilian Portuguese, while Brazilians take around two months to get comfortable with European Portuguese when they go to Portugal to work (there are many Brazilians doing that these days). Of course, in the United States we get *Masterpiece Theatre*, music and the BBC, while the British get lots of American films, TV shows and music — so our two populations are familiar with each other's way of speaking our common language. Still, it's no walk in the park to relearn a language at our stage of life. What I learned in Brazil faded through non-use, so I was quickly disabused of my original thought that I would pick up Portuguese again quickly. Language

is not like riding a bike. Don't use it and you lose it, while we can pick up bike riding again easily even after years of not doing it."

If you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club). The next are on December 12, January 9 and February 13.

In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next.

## 1964

**Norman Olch**  
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I am writing in September, but by the time this appears in *CCT* we will be approaching the start of the new decade. I wish each of you and your loved ones a happy New Year, and a year of good health, peace and prosperity.

I have asked the class two questions: What do you wish you had known when you were 18, and what advice do you have for the members of the College's next graduating class as they face becoming "adults"? Responses have been trickling in.

**Lee Witting** writes from Penobscot, Maine: "First of all, thanks for your dedication in producing this column year after year. I was sorry not to make the reunion, but after we lost my freshman-year roommate, **Nick Rudd**, my best reason for attending disappeared.

"To turn your first question around, I wish (for my father's sake, at least) I had known less when I was 18 than I did. When I drowned at 7, I went through a near-death experience (NDE) that compromised my focus on this life, and left me with a foot here and in the hereafter. My father was a high achiever, and very successful in his career. My focus was just not there in the same way, and I'm sure I was a disappointment to him, career-wise. Instead of focusing on economics, I spent my quality time on Eastern studies, primarily Buddhism. After graduating from the College, I followed my dad's wishes and started in the Business School's M.B.A. program, only to drop out in disgust. I went to work for NYC's



Department of Human Services, where my caseload was in West Harlem, above 125th Street, and where I learned that people with less than nothing materially had more character and love in their hearts than I ever would have imagined.

"Over time we saved some money and my wife, 3-year-old son and I traveled to Germany on a coal freighter and lived in a VW camper for nearly a year, exploring the cathedrals and holy places throughout Europe and the Middle East. When we got back, we found an old farmhouse in Maine, cleared the fields for a garden and grazing, and raised goats, chickens, pigs and a horse for the kids to ride. I worked a variety of jobs to supplement, but eventually went to seminary, where I earned a doctorate in NDE. I recently retired from 15 years as chaplain at Bangor's Eastern Maine Medical Center, where I heard many accounts of NDEs from patients who had died and been resuscitated. If that subject is of interest to any classmates, I do a podcast on NDE at [www.nderadio.org](http://www.nderadio.org). There are more than 300 shows archived for the listening.

"Oh, and my answer to question number 2, advising those graduating, is simple: Follow your heart."

**Gene Meyer** writes: "I don't have any great pearls of wisdom in response to your query about what I wish I'd known then that I know now. So I'll just give our classmates a personal update.

"My third book, *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army*, was published last year (and dedicated to the late James P. Shenton '49, GSAS'54). It won the 2019 award for Outstanding Biography/History book from the American Society of Journalists and Authors. ASJA also gave me the top prize, the ASJA Outstanding Blog Post recognition, for a blog I posted on my website: 'Pittsburgh: Never Again? Just Words.' In addition, the National Association of Real Estate Editors gave me a Silver Award this past spring for a magazine article about the Marriott Corp.'s decision to move its headquarters. Finally, I was honored and humbled to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the online Washington Independent Review of Books, on whose board I have served for several years.

"Here in the Washington, D.C., area, I see some classmates, including

**Steve Case LAW'68** and **Barry Shapiro**. I recently heard from Richard Tuerk '63, my junior-year roommate, who has had an outstanding academic career in Texas.

"My three sons are doing well and thriving in Brooklyn, Chicago and Richmond. My wife, Sandy Pearlman, who makes my life possible, works in HR for a federal agency not far from our home in suburban Silver Spring, Md. I continue to freelance for several publications. Life is full of challenges, but also rewards; I am resigned to the former and grateful for the latter."

**Paul Neuthaler GSAS'72**, SW'96 writes: "While my fingers still work and my tired eyes still focus, I wanted to check in and greet classmates who, I hope, are feeling as grateful and fulfilled as I.

"Looking back at my two careers — 30 years in publishing, culminating in having been named chairman and CEO of the Bantam, Doubleday Dell Publishing Group in the early '90s; then 25 years practicing psychotherapy in Westchester, N.Y., until I fully retired last year. Four children, and seven grandchildren to date — all four, thank God, healthy, loving and happily and expensively educated. I had kids in the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s! How patient and caring my wife, Abbi, has been.

"Columbia, my intellectual home, awarded four degrees to me over the years, including a Ph.D. in English Renaissance literature. My greatest Columbia debt was to my teacher and mentor, Edward Tayler, who died in April 2018. We were friends for 58 years — my tribute to him appears in the Spring 2019 CCT. I miss him every day. Whatever the future holds for me, I will try to approach it with the same naive expectations as ever. My life has been blessed."

**Steve Solomon**, happily retired in Florida, stopped by the class lunch in September. He is busy taking classes three days a week, traveling, visiting the grandchildren and so forth. "I don't know how I ever had time to work," he says.

Congratulations to Sophia Bock '19 on receiving the Allen J. Willen Memorial Prize for her paper on the impact of voter ID laws, *Voter Identification Laws and Their Effects on Voter Turnout and Republican Vote Share: An Analysis of State-Border Pairs 2000-2016*. **Allen Willen** was the news editor of *Spectator*.

Sophia writes to the class: "Thank you for establishing the Allen J. Willen Memorial Prize. Writing my thesis was one of the most formative experiences of my college career. I was able to explore my passion for voting rights, and develop a deep knowledge of statistical analysis. Working with Professor Donald Green made me a more thoughtful researcher. Even as an academic endeavor, it helped me prepare for my career as much as any internship I've done.

"I was inspired to write my thesis because of my work on campaigns, and my whole experience at Columbia. I had spent the past three years jumping from job to job, studying a wide breadth of topics through the Core, and I saw this as an opportunity to dedicate myself to one subject and develop a deep understanding of one of my most passionate policy areas, as well as statistics and managing a large-scale project on my own. It was more of a challenge than I ever thought it would be, and I gained more from the experience than I thought possible.

"Winning this prize helped me to go to Italy after graduation with the friends I made on my freshman floor during my first week at Columbia. I am now trying my luck in Washington for a while, before I inevitably return to New York to work on voting rights advocacy. Thank you very much for your meaningful contribution to the College."

The two questions I asked await your response. Also, join us in New York for our informal class lunch the second Thursday of each month.

## 1965

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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**Joel Berger** responded to the mention in the Fall 2019 "Obituaries" section about **Bill Goring** dying on July 28, 2019: "I was saddened to read of Bill's passing. He and I were roommates in our sophomore

and junior years in (what was then) Livingston Hall. We didn't know each other well as freshmen, but we became close friends and he was a delightful roommate. Bill grew up in Northampton, Mass., where his father was a maintenance worker at Smith College. That background gave Bill a refreshing outlook into issues of relations between the academic community and the working-class population in a small college town. He also had a fascination with neo-Nazis and other weird political groups and collected their literature, not because of any sympathy with them but rather out of curiosity as to what could produce such oddities in 1960s America. (He did get occasional feedback from the neo-Nazis complimenting him on the similarity between his last name and that of Field Marshal Hermann Göring!) He and his wife later founded a very popular and highly respected antique bookshop in Torrington, Conn. I believe that at least one and possibly more of his children attended the College. He was a truly unique and wonderful human being, and he will be missed by all who knew him."

I reached out to **Dan Carlinsky**, who had sent news about Bill that appeared in a previous column. I asked Dan if he ever got to visit Bill's bookshop, Nutmeg Books. Dan wrote, "I did visit Bill's shop — at his home in Torrington — once. I also used to run into him at library book sales, where he was always a major presence. For decades, if you were a dealer or collector of old books in Connecticut, you knew Bill Goring; he was really one of the deans of the antiquarian book world in the state and beyond. For several years, my wife, Nancy, and I ran a yearly book sale to raise money for our town library, a half-hour's drive from Torrington. We could always count on Bill's showing up to stand in line at opening so he'd have a shot at our best stuff. He dealt in an eclectic stock, which obviously represented his own mind well. Check his website; I think it fits the personality: [nutmegbooks.com/about-us](http://nutmegbooks.com/about-us)."

**Gad Heuman** responded to one of my pleas for news: "Classmates might be interested in my book *The Caribbean: A Brief History*. The third edition of was published earlier this year and includes an update of recent developments in the Carib-





bean and new publications. I am also one of the organizers of a Caribbean seminar at University College London and continue to work on slavery and the aftermath of slavery. In addition, I am the editor of an academic journal in this field, *Slavery & Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies*. However, two little grandchildren are doing their best to focus my attention elsewhere. I am now professor emeritus, having retired from university teaching in the United Kingdom, and continue to live in London with my wife, the former Ruth Weinstock BC'66."

**Leon Rosenstein** appears to have had a great summer: "I've just returned from a six-week tour to Sicily and Greece, voyaging with a friend for whom I more or less served as Cicerone, as my wife, Sara, is not currently well enough for travel. While I had seen most of this before, it was usually as a tour group leader for the Classical Alliance of the Western States, so it was nice

tion of our antiques business (note to antiques collectors: except at the highest end of the market, e.g., Sotheby's auction sales, antiques are dead), and the trip pretty much served its purpose, at least psychologically.

"My intellectual adventures this year were of two sorts. The first: I published a collection of what I consider to be my 10 best scholarly articles previously published in academic philosophy journals, a book called *Art and Existence*, currently available only in hardcover format from me (anyone interested need only contact me by email: rosenst1@sdsu.edu). In the meantime, Cornell University Press has informed me that subsidiary rights to a Chinese translation of my 2009 book, *Antiques: The History of an Idea*, have now been granted and that the Chinese version of my book should be available in a year or so. (Fortunately, I will not be required to proofread it.) My second intellectual adventure: I had the pleasure (and it

university (like so many universities these days) is committed to operating on the factory model (high-speed, efficient, cut-rate production of workers) and serving up massive, intellectually undemanding doses of the currently most fashionable drivel as worthy of academic study.

"As with my traveling adventures, so with these intellectual pursuits: I did them in part because I have always loved doing them for themselves and partly to demonstrate to myself that I was still capable of doing them. Well, so much from San Diego, where the temperature so far this year (as of August 1) — at least at the coast where I live — has yet to pass the 80-degree mark."

**Barry Kamins** was featured in *The New York Times* on September 13 in the article "Officers Said They Smelled Pot. The Judge Called Them Liars." A great photograph of Barry, seated at his desk and wearing his customary bow tie, is captioned "Barry Kamins, a former New York City judge and an authority on search and seizure law in New York, said Judge [April] Newbauer was 'the first judge to really express an opinion about this type of scenario.'"

**Michael Schlanger** was cleaning out his house in preparation for a move and came across an August 1983 article in *Legal Times: The National Law Journal* about "workaholic lawyers." It featured 10 workaholic lawyers. Two of them are Mike himself and **Michael Cook**. I know they both continue to practice law, but I hope they have eased up a bit!

**Bob Yunich** followed up on his report in the Fall 2019 issue: "I've become more active in volunteer work, as I've been significantly scaling back my financial advisory practice.

"In July I was elected a trustee of the New York Youth Symphony because it is an extraordinary organization and I am passionate about its mission. Founded in 1963, its award-winning program is dedicated to educating and inspiring gifted and talented young musicians, ages 12–22, through exceptional training and performance opportunities. Approximately 260 students from all backgrounds participate, regardless of their ability to pay, made possible by the availability of more than \$1 million in scholarships. Its programs have grown significantly to include chamber music, conducting, jazz, composition, musical theater com-

position and commissioning, with performances at world-class venues including Carnegie Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center. More than 20 free and ticketed performances that reach more than 8,500 people in the New York metropolitan area are offered each year. A concert during the Youth Symphony's inaugural year featured a 17-year-old Israeli violinist, Itzhak Perlman. In the intervening years, many of the Youth Symphony's alumni have assumed prominent roles in the music world.

"I'm continuing my work, started more than five years ago, in the credit crisis counseling program with the Community Service Society of New York and, more recently, the Trout in the Classroom Program with Trout Unlimited. As a result, I have been appointed to the NYS Council of Trout Unlimited, the governing body for all of TU's chapters and activities in the state.

"Our travel plans are fluid; we're planning a trip to London in February, Montreal in May and maybe somewhere in Europe (where we haven't visited) in the early fall."

Our class reunion (Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6) is a mere six months away. Reunion planning is getting underway, so you can submit suggestions for activities. The Reunion Committee hopes many, many classmates will participate.

## 1966

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
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Sasha Berkman '05 wrote in to share her remembrances of her father, **Stuart M Berkman BUS'68**: "Despite knowing that death is an inherent part of life and hearing regularly of its occurrence, the finite impact turns real only when experienced firsthand with the passing of a loved one. It has taken me a few months to fully come to terms with the sudden loss of my father (February 13, 1944–January 25, 2019).

"A native of Cleveland, he spoke so often with infectious enthusiasm of his undergraduate years at Columbia that there was hardly any other possible outcome than for my yearning for a Columbia experience of my own.

Core Haiku

Baptized as freshman  
by the Core Curriculum  
washing over me

— Jim Siegel '65, BUS'68

not to be obligated by the usual impediments and responsibilities of that role and I could include in our private itinerary archeological sites far from the usual tourist locales and the madding crowd — the Temple of Apollo Epikourios, for example, supposedly designed by Iktinos, and unique for being aligned north/south, provided with a side door and with the first known instance of a Corinthian capital. A Greek friend (formerly a graduate student of mine) regaled us with fulsome accounts of the current Greek socio-political situation and made comparisons with the United States, e.g., the economic 'use' (I employ this term in its several senses) of Albanians there as Californians 'use' Mexican laborers here.

"The trip was planned as a relief experience — relief from the various health issues of both my wife and me this year and from the frustrations attendant upon the final liquida-

tion of our antiques business (note to antiques collectors: except at the highest end of the market, e.g., Sotheby's auction sales, antiques are dead), and the trip pretty much served its purpose, at least psychologically.

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was a pleasure) of being invited by a group of San Diego State University philosophy graduate students to participate in their self-instituted seminar to study Nietzsche's *Also Sprach Zarathustra*. It was a pleasure not only because it prompted me to reread a notoriously poetic/esoteric work (the actual text of which I had not read in perhaps 40 years), but especially because these students chose this study topic on their own without requiring academic credit for it and without the support of philosophy faculty, which was not available to them in any case, as no one remains in the department from which I formally retired 10 years ago who is competent to teach this in this area. Indeed, since I left the department, many traditional and fundamental courses have been abandoned by the university administration and several of my own specialized subjects and courses have been left unstaffed, since the



"For many decades after his graduation he was the CC'66 class correspondent for *Columbia College Today*, in addition to conducting interviews of college hopefuls — first in my hometown of Atlanta, and later in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where my parents moved upon my completion of Columbia in 2005.

"One of my favorite Columbia stories is how his 28-year career at Coca-Cola came to be: He was apparently doing poorly in one of his classes at the Business School and built a rapport with the professor, possibly to improve his standing in the class. He was about to graduate, the Vietnam draft was looming and he had no plans. One day, my dad's professor asked what his graduation plans were, and said he had two friends, one in Atlanta at Coca-Cola and one at another company elsewhere. It sounds like my father jumped at the Coca-Cola opportunity, and thus began his international career in marketing and licensing at Coca-Cola.

"Throughout the years, either for business or for our yearly holiday travel with my mother and me, my father would not come to New York without a mandatory visit to the Columbia campus, which he admired every time. The visit also included a mandatory stop at Mondel Choclates to purchase chocolate-covered

Russian. My father and I, despite us both being Americans residing in the United States, spoke in Portuguese to each other — Brazilian Portuguese because of his nearly 43-year marriage to my Brazilian mother, Gilda Esberard Berkman, whom he met during his years spent working at Coca-Cola Brazil in the 1970s.

"I miss my father greatly."

## 1967

**Albert Zonana**  
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We heard from four classmates this issue!

**Cliff Dobrin** writes, "I received a juris doctorate from Rutgers Law School. A six-month trip to Hawaii led me to San Diego. I signed up for a three-year stint with the San Diego District Attorney's Office. I loved the job so much, I stayed for 37 years, retiring in 2007. When not looking after my granddaughter, my wife, Mary, and I have been traveling the world. Every couple of years, however, we return to New York City so I can stroll down College Walk and breathe in the most wonderful of memories. I picture my sponsor, Professor Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54,

sweet-natured little Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Having allowed memberships in various organizations to lapse, I did join the local literary club. For that group I have written some fiction, including a murder mystery, which was pretty good, if I do say so myself. There are several classmates still living I wish I had been able to see again. My best wishes to all of you."

**Don Shapiro** writes, "Over the years I've thought of writing to Class Notes but just never got around to doing it. Hard to believe that it's been 56 years since we lived together on (I think it was) the 12th floor of 'New Hall'! I'll make this short and sweet, and leave out the many details. My wife, Karlyn, and I raised our family in the Philadelphia area, where I practiced medicine. We now divide our time between Juno Beach, Fla., in the spring and fall, and Aspen, Colo., in the summer and winter. Also, I'm proud to say that my son, Adam '03, is a fellow Columbia College graduate. Lately, I've been rereading some of our Lit Hum books with the Columbia College Alumni Association's Core Conversations book club (college.columbia.edu/alumni/learn/coreconversations). I hope a lot of you are also taking advantage of this great opportunity. Life is good!"

**Jenik Radon** writes, "My vagabond ways now find me also returning to my California 'roots' — I did law at Stanford and grad school at UC Berkeley. I have rejoined Santa Barbara-based Direct Relief, the premier United States provider of critical emergency medical supplies around the world, as a member of its Board of Advisors. This gives me the chance to catch up with **Al Zonana**, who is not embarrassed to admit that he loves living in paradise.

"Other than the Bear Republic, I combined business with lots of pleasure by visiting Estonia, the land that invented Skype, this past summer and joining in its famed Estonian Song Festival, which in 1989 sparked Estonia's independence movement from the USSR. This year was the festival's 150th anniversary; there were more than 30,000 singers and more than 130,000 participants, all singing songs of freedom. It was an emotional high. It also gave me the opportunity to check up on my interns. They were working in the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs helping to craft a platform for the 105 small

states (countries with populations of 10 million or fewer) that Estonia plans to promote as a member of the United Nations Security Council, to which it was just elected and for which I supervised my SIPA students in crafting a report.

"And I made headlines in another paradise, Mauritius, by calling for it to create a public registry of the beneficial owners of all of its thousands of registered companies — I cannot say that my interview made me popular.

"A high point of the summer was my proving that I still had what it takes by dancing the twist at a wedding in Hannover, Germany, where even the 30-year-olds could not go so 'low' and get back up."

Be well all of you, and do write ....

## 1968

**Arthur Spector**  
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Miami Beach, FL 33140  
arthurspector@gmail.com

Hello to the Class of '68! We all met about 55 years ago, can you believe that? I am enjoying my home in Miami Beach, but the hurricane approaching did make me think twice ....

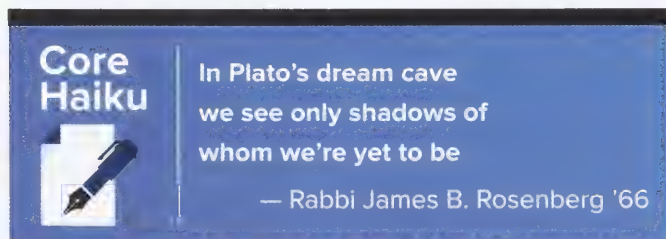
Visit me! **Buzz Zucker**, our resident expert on plays, is coming soon. We saw each other in Saratoga this past summer — he won at the race track, I was wiped out. **Seth Weinstein** is also coming, as is Bob Costa '67 and his wife, Joan. I went to their daughter Carolyn Costa '12's wedding in July, the best wedding I have ever been to. Carolyn is wonderful.

**Nigel Paneth**, Bernie Weinstein '65, Jenik Radon '67, **Robert Brandt** and **Seth Weinstein** and I go back and forth on public policy issues; it is quite amazing how Seth, Robert and I tend to be flawless in our observations. Nigel is again doing important public health teaching. Seth is biking and is down to college weight — told me he did 18 miles in one day recently.

I also heard from **Larry Susskind**, who has a new book out. He teaches at MIT.

Heard from **Jim Shorter**, who was planning to come to Homecoming Weekend 2019.

Also heard from **Tom Sanford**, who gave us a good lecture at our



ginger, a bite at V&T and a pastry at The Hungarian Pastry Shop. One might say he had memories tied to all those local spots.

"I am fortunate to have been loved and raised by a man who was the grandson of Hungarian and Russian immigrants, worked part time at his parents' convenience store from the young age of 4 and paid his own tuition at Columbia, ultimately growing his passion for foreign languages and becoming a self-taught linguist speaking English, Portuguese, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch, Turkish and

and some of my friends and always appreciate what an extraordinary experience it was. Life is good."

**Bob Burdette** writes, "I was unable to attend our class reunion in 2017 due to mobility problems occasioned by spinal stenosis. My two closest friends from the class, **George 'Jud' Marking** and **Michael 'Mickey' Lane**, and their wives, came to my home in Cincinnati that spring and we celebrated on our own. The fairly large number of our classmates who had already died surprised me. These days I lead a solitary life in the company of a





40th about staying fit. Tom writes, "Rowed up the Thames River from the Hammersmith Bridge to Henley over the course of three days in early July with a group of English old boys. My second year of this fun. I'm looking forward to Homecoming and planning to go to the Yale Bowl, too."

A role model for us all, for sure! **Ira McCown**, a former rower, was planning to come to my place to watch a Columbia football away game; I was to produce lunch.

I heard from **Hollis Petersen**, who is in hot water with me until the next reunion — talk about football, I bet he was at a game at age 3 or so, like **Paul de Bary**.

Hollis wrote that he and his wife, Ann, continue to be enthusiastic residents of Islamorada, which is in the middle of the fabulous Florida Keys (where the sun shines except for an occasional hurricane). While sorry to miss the recent excitement of the Lions's successes, Hollis still claims to miss Buff and Archie and sends enthusiastic greetings to all from the Conch Republic (aka the Keys).

Hollis, I hope to get out to see you there or hope I can persuade you to travel to Miami.

The latest news from **Steve Gottlieb**'s late-blossoming tennis life: "I was selected for the United States four-member team to compete in the 70-and-over world team competition in Croatia. Pleased to report that we captured the bronze medal."

**George Bernstein** recently returned from a wonderful time with some English friends whom he met 26 years ago in Scotland. They met in London for a celebration. George sounds like fun; I recommend that any member of the Class of '68 who's spending time in New Orleans ring George, who probably knows the best restaurants and chefs in the city (which has some of the best food on the planet).

George, we missed you at the 2018 reunion, but we have many more on the horizon.

**Sandy Zabell** writes, "Recently published a 75-page paper on German mathematicians who worked on cryptography during WWII (the German counterparts to Alan Turing). There were quite a few (not surprising, given their preeminence in mathematics then). Other than that, the usual teaching."

Sandy is a professor at Northwestern; his 75-pager sounds like the basis

of a movie with intrigue. I wonder what happened to all the Germans. Did they end up in America?

I wish I had a list of all the professors in our class, as I bet we have some kind of record of talent at universities. Although, we have a lot of lawyers and doctors, many turned out to be professors in some cases!

Have a happy New Year, and please take a moment to write!

## 1969

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

CCT was saddened to learn that longtime class correspondent **Michael S. Oberman** passed away on October 16, 2019. He was a very active alumnus, serving as class correspondent for 41-plus years, serving on the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors 2008–19 and volunteering for multiple Reunion Committees through the years. He will be missed.

## 1970

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6  
Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu  
Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Leo G. Kailas**  
**Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt**  
885 Third Ave., 20th Fl.  
New York, NY 10022  
lkailas@reitlerlaw.com

My dear friend **Jacob Worenklein** sent a lovely note: "I continue to focus on electric power in major United States cities as we transition to a low-carbon future. I chair the company that owns the Ravenswood Generating Station in Long Island City (New York's largest power plant), and am CEO of US Grid Co., which is in the process of acquiring power plants in major U.S. cities. I worry, as so many of us do, about the threats to the basic values of our nation and chair the Interfaith Alliance, which is committed to the protection of the

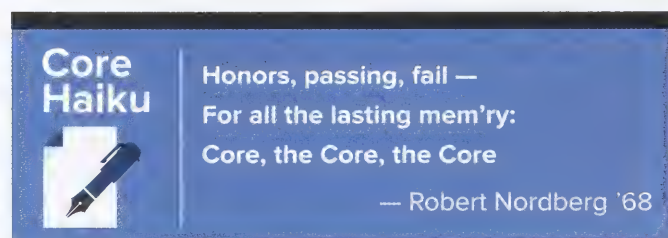
constitutional rights of Americans of all faiths and backgrounds.

"My wife, Cindy, and I continue to live on the West Side of Manhattan with our daughter Sasha, a sophomore at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and not far from my children David '93 and Laura '01, and close in spirit to my son Dani, who lives in Jerusalem and finds opportunities for me to do good deeds."

My friend Professor **David Lehman** reports, "David Lehman's new book, *One Hundred Autobiographies: A Memoir*, tells the story of his (provisionally) triumphant three-year battle with cancer, with the

valuable treasure trove of videos that reach far and wide, demonstrating the power of listening, creating and improvising in what is usually viewed as an arcane and painful task. His published work, including his highly influential textbooks on both modal and tonal counterpoint, have created an extraordinary impact on the field. Finally, he has changed the way musicians think, bringing joy through musical insights, allowing students to do something that they only dreamed of in terms of their musical studies and analytical discoveries."

**Richard Hobbie** reports: "After 23 years as president and CEO of



book's structure allowing for digressions, memories, fantasies, dreams and reflections on life and death. Lehman's poetry books include *Playlist; When a Woman Loves a Man; and The Daily Mirror*."

Professor Lehman is also mentioned with great respect in **James Periconi**'s letter to our class at the end of these notes.

Great news about Professor **Peter N. Schubert** of McGill University's Schulich School of Music. Peter "has been awarded the Gail Boyd de Stowinski Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Music Theory Teaching and Scholarship. This honor is awarded every five years and bestowed upon an individual who has helped to shape music theory pedagogy throughout the world, whether it be through teaching at his or her home institution or through lectures, formal conference presentations and publications beyond the campus. Criteria for the award also require that honorees have taught for a minimum of 25 years, have maintained significant scholarship and continued presence in the field of music theory pedagogy, and have demonstrated impact on future generations of music theory instructors (mentorship, successful alumni, legacy in teaching approaches)."

Beyond his excellence in classroom teaching, Peter "has created a

the Water Quality Insurance Syndicate in New York, I have retired and am living in Dorado, Puerto Rico."

Professor **Lewis H. Siegelbaum**, the Jack & Margaret Sweet Professor Emeritus of History at Michigan State University, sent a note about the publication of his memoir, *Stuck on Communism: Memoir of a Russian Historian* (with a chapter on his years at Columbia College). His publisher describes the book as a "memoir by one of the foremost scholars of the Soviet period from the 1950s when Lewis Siegelbaum's father was a victim of McCarthyism through the implosion of the Soviet Union and beyond" and refers to Lewis's self-discovery "through the tumult of the student rebellion at Columbia during the Vietnam War and Moscow at the height of détente."

It sounds like a fascinating read!

**Geoff Zucker** reports: "As one of the 'counterculture' generation of students of the Class of '70, I never thought I'd say that I retired last year after 40 years as a gastroenterologist in Western Massachusetts. This year my wife, Donna, retired as a professor of nursing at University of Massachusetts. We're trying to figure this out, and some travel (a recent trip to Egypt, Jordan and Israel) and summers on Cape Cod have been wonderful. In order to



give me a reason to get out of gym clothes, I'm president of the medical staff at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, a Mass General Hospital affiliate, and am on the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Having a voice in the governance and policies of the organizations that I belong to has been my best solution to avoid 'burnout,' a serious problem for physicians these days. Our first grandchild, Evan, was born a year ago, and gives us a strong reason to drive into Long Island on a regular basis. I'm looking forward to next year's reunion, and to connecting with my old friend, **Tom Keenan**."

Well, **Tom Keenan** also sent a nice report: "My wife, Keri, and I are looking forward to catching up with you guys again at our 50th! And since you asked ... In his 2004 book *Techno-creep: The Surrender of Privacy and the Capitalization of Intimacy*, University of Calgary Professor Tom Keenan made some feisty predictions about how the world would change by the 50th anniversary of Woodstock (music curated through AI, personalized medical tests, direct stimulation of the brain with electricity rather than chemicals). Woodstock 2019 didn't happen, but most of the things Tom predicted did. One thing he didn't see coming was the ability for anyone to fake images/documents/videos with commonly available software. He's now designed a blockchain-based system that can help detect image manipulation — a useful tool in the age of Fake News. He presented it at the RSA conference in Singapore this summer. A short video version is online at [bit.ly/2mDrdhh](http://bit.ly/2mDrdhh)."

**Bill Schur** writes: "I'm back in Fort Worth, Texas, where I have taken up bowling and golf 50 years after I quit both. Pursuing a new citizen naturalist hobby, photographing plants and animals and uploading them to the iNaturalist website/app/database, where I go by the handle `cwd912nb`. Doing my civic duty by serving on a stormwater advisory group for the City of Fort Worth and working on various neighborhood association projects."

**Larry Rosenwald** writes: "I'm excessively proud to have a verse translation of mine, of Itzik Manger's *The Ballad of Old Harlequin*, published on the website of the Yiddish Book Center, [yiddishbookcenter.org/language-literature-culture/yiddish-translation/ballad-old-harlequin](http://yiddishbookcenter.org/language-literature-culture/yiddish-translation/ballad-old-harlequin), with a beautiful, heart-wrenching graphic presentation."

Finally, news from **James Periconi** (who is on our Reunion Committee): "I very much look forward to our 50th reunion in June. I'm happy to report that in my small — but not unimportant — way, I'm beginning to pick up where I left off as a graduate student midway to getting a Ph.D., Columbia's only Danforth Graduate Fellow in the Class of '70. I admire classmates who successfully finished their Ph.D.s in English literature, too many to name. One in particular I'm lucky enough to see a lot of, who has taught and written some of the best poetry around (not to speak of his prose works) and started in 1988 an iconic American cultural institution, *The Best American Poetry* series: my good friend **David Lehman**. It just wasn't for me then."

"I continued to pursue a pretty good career as an environmental lawyer. This began while I was studying in Paris, attending Michel Foucault's and Claude Lévi-Strauss's classes at the Collège de France, living with an American science writer for UNESCO, who wrote about the gradual destruction of the environment, convincing me that the world needed environmental lawyers to save the planet more than it needed another Ph.D. in English literature. But starting about 20 years ago at a conference I helped organize, with Edward Said as the keynote speaker (thanks, Jim McMenamin), I prepared my first bibliography, a modest effort at a comprehensive list of the literary output of Italians in

America. Part-time work as a book dealer led to research, which led to collecting, and back to a deeper research, and soon I was publishing an article every two to three years — practicing law not leaving more time for this activity."

"In recent years, I've taken several intensive courses in bibliography, including 'Principles of Descriptive Bibliography,' at the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, enhancing my research and my collecting, which culminated in 2012 in an exhibition at the Grolier Club New York City of my collection, prompting the now-deceased William Reese, one of the eminent, scholarly dealers in American books, to buy two copies of my catalogue for his staff, declaring I had filled an important gap in American book publishing history. Whew!"

"A year ago, the New York Public Library gave me one of its coveted positions as a Wertheim Research Scholar for a year, and recently extended it to May of next year. To some a poor step-sibling of the Cullman Fellows Program (with its stipends) perhaps, but a key to a private reading room on the second floor of the magnificent 42nd Street library and, even better, a couple of shelves on which to keep books ordered from the stacks brought right there, to keep pretty much as long as we need them. Lately I've been scouring the Italian newspapers in New York in the second half of the 19th century for ads for imported books from Italy — a thriving business, it seems — and then for the exciting emergence of home-grown materials, in other words, Italian fiction, poetry, memoirs and histories, in U.S. imprints (not imported). It's almost entirely virgin territory for a scholar in this sub-field (I know most of them), so it actually sets my pulse to racing when I make a discovery and jump out of my seat, or have my assumptions utterly (and thrillingly) defeated by the inexorable power of real evidence of historical events and material culture."

"As if I weren't already terribly fortunate because of this, my companion of the last five-plus years is a senior Columbia history professor at the crest of a great career, and about to publish at Harvard another one of her award-winning histories of modern Europe. Every other year

she teaches second semester CC, enjoying rereading these magnificent texts — a somewhat different selection than ours of a half-century ago, but not as different as you'd think — and discussing them with really smart and (mostly) hard-working College undergrads. Just remembering as much as I occasionally do about texts from that life-altering course — thank you, Pete Pardue from the religion department! — and from its offshoots, especially sociology-CC, discussing them with her, reminds me how much I got out of Columbia despite the awful political times."

"I've run on too long, but there's much to say that's positive, and I haven't even mentioned children and grandchildren, in which I'm very blessed; no bemoaning the pains of old age or miscalculations in my life!"

## 1971

**Lewis Preschel**  
c/o CCT

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New York, NY 10025  
[l.a.preschel@gmail.com](mailto:l.a.preschel@gmail.com)

**Howie Selinger** writes, "I have lived in Denver for 44 years. After finishing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, I have been in private practice performing consultations and giving expert witness testimony. I specialize in cognitive behavior therapy, including mindfulness-based stress reduction and acceptance and commitment therapy. I love my work too much to retire. It fulfills my personal goals of decreasing human suffering."

Howie notes the Core Curriculum created a firm basis for his practice. His wife, Marilyn, has a doctorate in neuroscience; their two grown children returned to Denver to live. They practice law and psychology. Howie has three grandchildren, who first heard "Roar, Lion, Roar" minutes after their birth. He is eager to hear from classmates: [hvs3@columbia.edu](mailto:hvs3@columbia.edu).

After 40 years of public service, **Gary Marton** retired last May. He notes his path after Columbia took a slight detour: "For two years after graduation, I shared an apartment on Claremont Avenue while I drove a cab, played tournament bridge, helped to run a food co-op and took



## Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct), or send news to the address at the top of your column.





piano lessons. I lived the hippie lifestyle. However, while in college, 1969–71, I performed draft counseling with good success. The process was rewarding, so I decided to enroll in law school: Boston University. In 1976, I obtained a position with a solo practitioner, but found no enjoyment there, so in 1978, I took a position with the Office of the New York City Comptroller. For more than six years I worked on construction contracts, administrative law, labor law and public procurement issues. In 1985, I joined the New York City Law Department and ran the litigation unit. We defended thousands of tax foreclosure proceedings, occasional bankruptcy, eminent domain, environmental, public procurement and tax certiorari cases. We also drafted legislative proposals. In 1999, I gained approval and was appointed, as a judge, to the New York State Court System, the housing part of the Civil Court of the City of New York. I served for almost 20 years in various boroughs throughout the city.

"My wife, Monique, and I have lived in Brooklyn since 1990. We have two grown daughters. We enjoy our lives every day. I am in contact with **Roger Liwer SEAS'71** and **Roy Rosenstein**, both of whom live in Paris, and within walking distance of each other. During my time as a judge, I would occasionally cross paths with **Arthur Engoron**. From time to time, I run into **Larry Weiss**, who is the headmaster of Brooklyn Friends School."

**Ron Rosenberg** teaches at the Law School of William and Mary, but will retire at the end of this year. Although he and his wife reside in Williamsburg, Va., presently, on retirement they will relocate to Charlottesville. He remembers that the events of our freshman year shocked him personally and intellectually. In retrospect, he concludes that our class was a firsthand observer of social and political history that changed the essence of our country forever.

As your class correspondent, I claim minimal training in psychology and statistics, but our class seems to have a larger than expected proportion of people involved in the legal system of the city, state and federal government. Add in the number of lawyers, judges, physicians, and include those in related

medical fields, and it seems the events and times of our college education directed so many of us toward our appropriate future — serving others to better our world.

**Paul Armstrong** follows Columbia baseball, and the team is obviously much better than when he played, though I can attest that Paul could play quite well. Paul married Peggy after graduation and did corporate work for 40 years while living in Colorado, California and Pennsylvania, and finally returning to New York. He traveled the world as well, including but not limited to, trips to South America, Japan, South Korea and Europe. In retirement, Paul devotes his time to his family: two sons and a daughter, plus five grandchildren. The oldest, a grandson, is 16; he lives in California and is ready to look at colleges. Paul is making a road trip with him to UCLA, USC and Caltech.

As a retiree, Paul has stopped solving engineering problems, equations and such, as he did throughout college and his career. He says, "I'm a liberal arts guy at heart, but took the technical route in college out of practicality [and the need to find a job]." While taking engineering courses and practicing baseball during the day, and then studying for engineering at night during college, he had no time to read great literature; so in his leisure, he now makes up for lost time. Otherwise, he spends his spare hours abusing his knee and hip replacements by playing tennis.

**George Quintero** lives in Maracaibo, Venezuela, but notes he was destined to go to Columbia, as his dad, Jorge Quintero '45, PS'48 was pre-med and his mother was BC'44 and also PS'48. George proposes that **Greg Wyatt** make a desktop replica of his *Scholar's Lion* for our reunion. He looks forward to the big 5-0, which is coming up soon.

**Paul Scham** is the co-editor of *Israel Studies Review*. He is the executive director of the The Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Len Renery**, the captain of our class's freshman soccer team, checked in: "In 1954, the NCAA in its wisdom mandated freshman athletics teams, so that incoming students could play sports. It was required of all colleges and universities until 1973. I was privileged

to play on Columbia's freshman soccer team in 1967, along with outstanding teammates like **Rocco Commisso SEAS'71** and **Omar Chamma**." Another excellent player, **Mike Vorkas**, has passed away. Len continues, "The 1967 freshman soccer team was undefeated, beating previously undefeated Penn 4–3 in the final match of the season. (We won the hypothetical freshman Ivy League Title.) Naturally those of us on the team are proud of this accomplishment and remember it vividly. Now, arguably, the most important position on a soccer team is the goalkeeper, and I'll have you know that the goalkeeper on the undefeated 1967 freshman soccer team at Columbia was none other than **Lew Preschel**. Thanks for a great season, Lew!"

Len remembers back to our dads standing on the sidelines cheering us on. Another great moment for both of us.

In an effort to present a balanced picture and give credit where credit is due, on the soccer pitch in front of me, I had an incredibly talented defense, including **Rocco**; **Rinaldo Veseliza SEAS'71**, GSAPP'74; **Joe Koch**; big **Jorge Gleser '72**; **Rich Milich**; and also my friend, fullback **Bobby Brintz**, who succumbed to ALS several years ago. That season beat the hell out of studying for organic chemistry. We should also note that Len was an All-Ivy selection in 1969 and 1970, and went on to a career in professional soccer before becoming a high school and college coach.

Fortuitously, **Rich Milich**, one of the starting fullbacks on our undefeated freshman soccer team, dropped us a line: "For the past 30 plus years, I have taught psychology at the University of Kentucky; however, I recently retired. I chaired more than 35 doctoral dissertations and performed research concerning ADHD for 40 years. The topic still holds my interest because new questions arise, begging to be answered. Having worked and lived in Lexington has made it my home, so I am retiring here as well."

On a class business note: I am hopeful that in the spring we can have an informal class luncheon someplace in Manhattan. It would be great to see everyone — those I remember and those I never knew. If you like this idea and have sugges-

tions as to where we should meet, please contact me at [l.a.preschel@gmail.com](mailto:l.a.preschel@gmail.com). I hope to set this up far enough in advance that some of our out-of-towners can make it.

Life presents twisty paths — we have all gone our own way, but we are not near our finish line. We can still Roar, Lion, Roar. We're the brotherhood of '71ers; let's stay in touch.

## 1972

**Paul S. Appelbaum**  
39 Claremont Ave., #24  
New York, NY 10027  
[pappel1@aol.com](mailto:pappel1@aol.com)

**Gene Ross** reports, "All is well. My three sons are succeeding in their careers. I am still busy in my Westchester County ear, nose and throat practice, though, after 43 years of operating, and a clean record, I have adopted an office-only practice. My wife and I are taking more time off, and have wandered the world this year — Peru, Madeira, the Grand Canyon, Bulgaria, Greece, Puerto Rico and eight trips (so far) to our beach home in Fort Lauderdale. I learned to play Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 19* a couple of years ago, have been working on Chopin's *Études* and plan to resume playing jazz on saxophone. I get to the gym a lot and, at 69, am 5-foot-10 and 148 lbs."

He concludes with a welcome bit of Columbia patriotism: "Roar, Lion, Roar. Still so honored to call Columbia alma mater. I've always endeavored to earn her faith in me."

**Bruce I. Jacobs SEAS'73** wrote that his latest book, *Too Smart for Our Own Good: Ingenious Investment Strategies, Illusions of Safety, and Market Crashes*, which explains the underlying causes that connect financial crises from 1987 to the present, was published last year. His firm, Jacobs Levy Equity Management, entered its 34th year this fall. In September, the Jacobs Levy Equity Management Center for Quantitative Financial Research at the Wharton School hosted its seventh annual conference, including the presentation of the fourth biennial Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation. On the personal front, Bruce and his wife of 44 years, Ilene, are proud of their four children, who are pursuing careers in social work, finance and



a food business startup. And, of course, they are enjoying time with their four grandchildren.

**Bill Hudgins** shared some reminiscences of moving in during Freshman Week: "I grew up in a small rural town in Virginia and spent my last two years of high school at an all-boys school in yet another rural part of Virginia. The Spring 1968 shutdowns worried my folks greatly, but for me, they signaled I was indeed going to the right place. My dad and I drove to NYC — I'd been to New York before, but he never had. We arrived and got our first look at the campus. Hippie-looking people everywhere. Scores of beautiful girls (did I mention I'd just finished two years at an all-boys school?). People with bullhorns broadcasting whatever position they embraced. And hundreds of other confused, confounded and anxious parents wondering, as my dad surely was, what circle of hell they were delivering their babies to, and if they'd ever see them again. If there was a parents' orientation then, we didn't know about it. So we moved my stuff in, and my dad very reluctantly bade me goodbye. I went off to find out what new world I'd landed in. It was years later when I realized how he must have felt after leaving me in that Boschian scene."

My wife, Dede, and I were able to do a few days of guided birding in Gibraltar and southern Spain this year at the start of the fall migration. Though we're not fanatic birders, we've had the privilege of seeing these magnificent creatures in some of the world's major flyways, including Israel and Costa Rica. It's a lovely way to spend a couple of days. I am also pleased to note the publication of the first book by my son, Binyamin (the only member of the family without a Columbia degree), a member of *The New York Times* editorial board. I'm certainly biased in suggesting that *The Economist's Hour: False Prophets, Free Markets, and the Fracture of Society* is the most readable account of post-war economic history that I've ever seen, but there you have it.

If you are receiving *CCT* but never see an email from me about contributing to Class Notes, it means the Alumni Office doesn't have your current email address. With our 50th reunion looming, it's all the more important that they,

and I, know how to contact you. So please send me your email address and I'll pass it along, or submit it directly to *CCT*: college.columbia.edu/cct/update\_contact\_info.

## 1973

**Barry Etra**  
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Atlanta, GA 30306  
betra1@bellsouth.net

My entreaties for Class Notes go unheeded. Thus is a class correspondent's lot, at times ....

**Nick Lubar** muses about *CCT*: "When we entered Columbia, the oldest classes listed in *CCT* were from the turn of the century; now, we're somewhat in the middle ourselves. A way to measure the passage of time."

Nick was on campus in the spring for the annual fundraiser for the sailing team, which now has a coach and a fleet on City Island — a marked change from yesteryear. As well, he met with two students who were the recipients of a prize that he created for students to study the way Latin American governments are improving life for their citizens, and was "impressed with their enthusiasm."

Methinks it's those little gestures that matter the most.

**Barry Etra** did not write in, but is running two forums in Atlanta that match up investors and early-stage companies in unique ways that enable the companies to remain local, thus building up the local ecosystem. The RAISE Forum was his invention; he also runs the Atlanta chapter of the Keiretsu Forum, the largest and most active angel group in the world.

And there you have it. Until the next issue!

## 1974

**Fred Bremer**  
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f.bremer@ml.com

Walking around Morningside Heights on a beautiful fall day, I was struck by the amusing chalkboard signs outside some of the newer establishments. In front of Oren's Coffee (just north of Tom's Restaurant on 112th Street and Broadway),

was a sign that read "EEFFOC — that's coffee spelled backwards ... and I don't give EEFFOC before my first cup of coffee in the morning!" Another, in front of Mel's Burger Bar (a great place where The Gold Rail was in our day), took a little artistic license. It had an arrow pointing up Broadway and a note saying, "Columbia: \$71,199" and an arrow pointing to Mel's that said, "Happy Hour drinks: \$4." I bet it is a tough choice for the undergraduates!

You've got to love the disparate rankings of best colleges, each using different criteria and weightings of the factors. A listing in *The Wall Street Journal* had Columbia at a discouraging 15th place. But CNBC's ratings of the "top 10 U.S. colleges in big cities" put Columbia at number 2. The granddaddy of lists, by *U.S. News & World Report*, has Columbia tied with Yale at number 3. Take your choice, but we all know "Who Owns New York?"

Don't wince when your kids tell you they plan to major in history and urban studies. You might think these majors could make it hard to get a "good" job. But it all worked out for **Ken Krug** (perhaps helped by getting an M.B.A. at Stanford). Ken first was an executive at the RAND Corp. (the public policy think tank in Los Angeles). In 2007 he became the CFO of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. Since 2011, Ken has been the CFO of The Asia Foundation in San Francisco and says he plans to stay "for a while" in part because the position gets him to Asia frequently. One big change is that he has moved from Berkeley to Los Angeles and will now make a weekly commute from L.A. to San Francisco.

Another classmate is a CFO in San Francisco: **Tom Ferguson**. He works for the Episcopal Church but has a much shorter commute (from the nearby suburb of Piedmont). Tom passes on that his daughter, Elizabeth, completed a master's at NYU last summer. He promises details on what he's up to when work lets up.

**Timothy Greenfield-Sanders** has a new film. *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am* is about the Nobel- and Pulitzer-winning novelist. The *Los Angeles Times* calls his movie "moving and profound" and also said, "Look for this one to be front and center in its category come Oscar time." While

Timothy has produced a number of works that have shown up on TV, this is his first major piece for the big screen.

Distant memories put **Jim Rouen** in the anti-money laundering group at Citigroup in New York. He updates us that he is still at Citi but he now heads its securities services legal team. He also teaches a course at the USC Gould School of Law (done over one weekend) and teaches a course online; he adds, "struggling a bit with the tech." Jim says he is "still married to my college (but not Barnard) sweetheart, Marilyn Belloch." They have two grown children. One is in film in L.A. and the other is in the restaurant business in NYC. Earlier this year Jim and his wife moved from the Upper West Side to Connecticut. He says he took several alumni courses (French literature, and the history of Broadway theater), and says both "have been absolutely great."

"I'm a migrant worker these days!" writes **Steve Simon**. After serving on the National Security Council (as director of Middle East and North Africa) in Washington, D.C., he accepted a three-year post as a visiting professor at Amherst College (in Massachusetts). He is now doing a five-year stint at Colby College (in Waterville, Maine). Steve adds, "It is kind of a big moment for us in that it looks like we are going to sell our farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This implicitly means we are never returning to land below the Mason-Dixon. Weird feeling."

Also leaving D.C. is **Steve Seidel**: "After working on ozone protection and climate change for more than 30 years at the EPA and other environmental organizations, I retired two years ago. Sad to say there is way more work left to be done by the next generation of activists." (Officially, Steve was the director of the Stratospheric Protection Project at the EPA.) But he is now off on a new adventure: "My wife and I are heading to Thailand to teach English."

**Warren Stern** writes from Greenwich, Conn., "I am liberated from my long legal career at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. I remain of counsel. Owning your time is a great privilege."

How is he filling his days? "I'm a devoted angler and boater, and like to travel, spend time with my





wife and two grown children (no grandchildren at this point) and read as much as I can," he says.

Having retired five years ago from his career on Wall Street, **George Bartos** (who lives in NYC) says he is "living a life of leisure." He tells us he enjoys "playing the grandfather role" for the two sons of his daugh-

ter (who works for NBCUniversal). He also tries to keep in contact with his Columbia fencing team friends. There you have it. Some classmates continue in their chosen professions, while others are altering their careers. There seems to be an increase in classmates who have decided to take time to smell the roses. Whatever you are doing these days, take a moment to drop me an email!

five years back. It seemed like such a good idea that I've tried to keep it up during the non-Lenten months, those being most of them. If that's boring, alas, so be it."

His thoughts on my obituary, which he has been planning for years, are NSFW, so probably not safe here, either!

organizers (including Gordon) wrote: "Kit Noir 2020 will feature a range of Jewish artists and themes. The festival will include films by Jewish filmmakers (Edgar G. Ulmer's *Detour*, Billy Wilder's *Ace in the Hole*), films that address anti-Semitism (*Crossfire*) and WWII (*The Spiral Staircase*, *The Stranger*) and films on the blacklist and the media (*Scandal Sheet*, *Sweet Smell of Success*). Once again, a majority of the films will screen on 35mm film."

I attended the first two and have seen other '76ers in the audience. Last year, I enjoyed a post-festival meal with **Joel Silverstein** and his family at Pisticci. I hope to see many more classmates this year; tickets will go on sale at the festival's website: arts.columbia.edu/noir. Let me know if you are planning to attend. At a minimum, we can grab some coffee.

**Mark Giosa** retired last year after a career in corporate real estate: "I have been enjoying golf, traveling and reading books — one of these days I will get around to rereading some of the classics that I failed to fully appreciate during my College days. I was in NYC in May, reuniting with my buddies from SEAS'76. My wife had never seen campus, so we jumped on the Broadway local for a visit and happened to visit on graduation day. The campus was beautiful and brought back many memories.

"My biggest claim to fame is that my son Alex is performing on Broadway as the substitute drummer on *Hamilton*. We hope to make a return trip to the city soon to catch the show."

I went to Syracuse (I need some destination suggestions for future trips!) to see Mika and her tenants, Linda and **Dennis Goodrich**, and to surprise **Bob Czekanski** and his wife, Pam, who came by during their visit to their son at Hobart. Bob writes: "I live in a small town in Central Massachusetts, work part-time and tend to my apple trees. My oldest son is two years out of college and my younger sons are in their senior year of college. All is going well and I look forward to following the Lions' football season."

**Bob Giusti PH'77**, a pediatric pulmonologist and clinical professor of pediatrics at the NYU School of Medicine and director of the Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis Center at NYU's Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, says NYU has been approved as the

only Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia diagnostic and treatment center in NYC approved by the Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia Foundation.

PCD is a genetic disease with chronic wet coughing and lung infections resulting from the inability of cilia that line the airway to perform their role of clearing secretions from the lung.

Bob is also proud to have established, with the assistance of his daughter, Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti '12, the Norman Hildes-Heim Fund at the College. This scholarship, in memory of Norman Hildes-Heim '60, who was the freshman lightweight crew coach at Columbia, provides annual support for an undergraduate in the music department.

Bob lives in Greenwich Village with his wife, Leslie Kipp, and tries to stay fit as he approaches his 65th birthday by daily walking a mile to and from his pediatric pulmonology practice at NYU.

**John Connell's** daughter Erin Connell '13 married Christian Adams on September 7 in Mount Desert, Maine. There were a lot of College alumni in attendance, including Erin's sister, Brigid '16, and brother, Will '19. (See "Just Married!") John added this caption: "Special surprise guest appearance: Dorian ... as in hurricane!"

**Toomas Hendrik Ilves** writes: "After finishing my second term as president of Estonia and after my youngest son was born, Stanford invited me out for a few years. I am a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at its Hoover Institution. In 2017 I received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement from the College."

Since retiring from Wall Street in 2009, **Yuji Sugimoto** has been traveling and sailing the seven seas on his sailboat: "One of the best experiences I have had recently was on land, the walking of the Camino de Santiago in the northeast corner of Spain. It is an UNESCO World Heritage Site-recognized activity that started about 1,250 years ago as a Christian pilgrimage but is now done by anyone, regardless of religious background. You hike 10-15 miles every day in the beautiful pastoral settings just with your backpack, going from village to village, staying at hostels and inns. It is a great way to see this beautiful region up close, taste real local food and wine, and

**Core too much to read**  
**Monarch Notes help you indeed**  
**With Thucydides**  
 — Robert Sclafani '75, GSAS'81

ter (who works for NBCUniversal). He also tries to keep in contact with his Columbia fencing team friends.

There you have it. Some classmates continue in their chosen professions, while others are altering their careers. There seems to be an increase in classmates who have decided to take time to smell the roses. Whatever you are doing these days, take a moment to drop me an email!

## 1975

**REUNION 2020**  
**JUNE 4-6**  
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Getting a note from **David Gawarecki** is always fun. Here's the latest: "1. I gave up alcohol as a way of life, not as an option in life. 2. I gave up womanizing because not doing so might shorten my remaining years (it's called mariticide, beginning with the same three letters as Martha). 3. I gave up work because it seemed too plebian (blame Columbia for giving me unrealistic expectations). 4. I didn't give up fast cars — driving a six-cylinder, standard transmission Camaro these days, miraculously without any speeding tickets (so far). 5. I gave up humility for Lent about

Athens, the Acropolis, Milos, Santorini, Mykonos and more. Not quite how I (**Randy Nichols**) spent my summer vacation, but almost. Since my Social Security checks have started rolling in, I'm going to spend those dollars on vacations! This past summer, a trip on the *Star Clipper* — a four-masted barquentine — was a real treat.

**Joel Stern** does it again! He announced the publication of his newest origami kit, *My First Origami Fairy Tales Kit*, which includes a full cast of characters — a princess, an ogre and a witch — and has detailed step-by-step instructions. Colorful paper collage backdrops and brilliant folding papers make it easy even for first-timers. I've ordered mine; you can get yours at amazon.com/gp/product/0804851468.

## 1976

**Ken Howitt**  
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Some classical music on the turntable — Gershwin orchestral works. I need a lot of time, since I got a lot of updates. Thanks to all of you!

To start, this coming March will mark the third annual Dr. Saul and Dorothy Kit Film Noir Festival, a 10-year series initiated by **Gordon Kit** in honor of his parents. The festival will run Wednesday, March 25–Sunday, March 29, at the Lenfest Center for the Arts on the Manhattanville campus. The festival



above all else give yourself some time to think, reflect and reminisce about many things — away from the internet. And it is a great, refreshing, stressless way to get in shape; great for '76ers' age bracket. There are several routes to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain, but I hiked the Portuguese Coastal Route with my wife, Yumi BC'74, BUS'76, from Porto, Portugal, to Santiago, which took about 20 days. I am thinking of doing the purists' route, The French Way (aka the 'real deal' that takes about 45 days, starting from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port near Bordeaux in southwest France and cutting across the Pyrenees range through the Basque region to Santiago). If you have interest in the Camino, watch the 2011 movie *The Way* with Martin Sheen or videos on YouTube."

A little over a year ago, **Laurence Lubka** and his partner, Miriam, purchased a large house in Pasadena. "We are now just a few feet from the Rose Parade route," he writes. "Most people are downsizing, but we upsized (and still lack room for the combined households). I spend a lot of time traveling to my son's family in the Bay Area and to my daughter's family (including my granddaughter) in Seattle. I recently hung out with a group of Columbia friends (including some from the CC'77 and CC'78) in Crested Butte, Colo. We have gathered as a group pretty much every other year for more than 40 years. A proud Columbia tradition."



A September reception in Washington, D.C., brought together Columbia alumni (left to right) Thomas J. Motley '76, Reynold Verret '76, Gustavo Paredes '77 and Steven L. Richardson.

"My construction law practice is quite busy, as construction in Los Angeles is quite busy. I've heard about this term 'retired,' although I'm told I don't entirely grasp the concept. I'm starting slowly and will soon take Fridays off. In the meantime, I'm still having fun."

From **Gary Lehman** BUS'80, SIPA'80: "Greetings to all with best wishes for a safe and wonderful family/friends time and spiritual renewal over the holidays. I am always proudly kvelling over my two granddaughters and grandson — with two more grandsons on the way — not to forget six granddogs, who go nuts when I bring them treats of dried codfish skins. After retiring from a big blue IT company where I was for 36 years, I now work for the Department of Homeland Security, which I thoroughly enjoy; it is an increasingly important mission."

"This summer I led my team up 7,000 ft. to the summit of Pikes Peak at 14,000-plus ft. on a cancer treatment/research fundraiser (Swim Across America: Making Waves to Fight Cancer; my photo of a smiling swimmer and her niece was used nationwide on Clear Channel, which I admit was pretty neat). In December, my wife, Linda, and I will tour Ethiopia. And then I will dive in Djibouti, observing/documenting whale shark behavior and collecting plankton, tissue and poo samples in the Gulf of Tadjoura to capture data for the Shark Research

Institute's whale shark database regarding their migration, mating, and life and times to try to 1) understand and 2) save them — before they are gone forever."

**Mario Fernandez** writes: "I retired in 2011 from the United States Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income division, as 'Statistician, Economics,' after 30 years with the U.S. government. I was born in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. I was part of the 1967, 1968 and 1969 groups of the Upward Bound program at the College. I don't think I was one of the original members because, as I recall, it started in 1966. I was one of the students from Jamaica H.S. I was also part of the Student Forum when I was a student and I remember the other members like Richard Collins, Paul Nyden '66, Linda Nyden, Michael Merryll, Jonathan Draper '74 and some others. For a while I was a professional student, but I ended up getting my degree in 1976. I would have to think some more to remember those years, which is the reason others might not want to respond. God bless Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74."

**Kevin Berry** writes: "Lots going on here in Philadelphia. Our sports teams are, for the most part, superior to those in New York, so that is always a comfort. Still working, out of either masochism or love of the game. I am a commercial trial lawyer, and a busy one at that. Also enjoying time with my three children, three stepchildren and five grandchildren — most are around here, but one is in Florida and one is in Los Angeles. I was in Scotland for a week in June, brandishing my abysmal golf game (I told you I was a busy lawyer, didn't I?). I headed to Aspen for a week in September, then took a two-week trip to Eastern Europe in October. We will spend the holidays in Palm Beach, Fla., where we have our second home. Running across Columbia grads in Philadelphia is like trying to find a Phillies fan in the Bronx, but I see some from time to time."

**Tom Motley** wrote about a reception that he attended in Washington, D.C., that was hosted by **Reynold Verret**, president of Xavier University of Louisiana, in New Orleans, at the Qatar-America Institute on September 11 in honor

of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 49th Annual Legislative Conference. Tom commented, "This event provided an opportunity for classmates to reminisce about the Columbia experience and the impact of Literature Humanities readings of Freud, Machiavelli and others."

So, Gershwin's *Second Rhapsody* (very underrated in my opinion) is concluding and I have once again written too many words for my editor. Keep those updates comin' and keep smilin'!

## 1977

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Greetings for winter, Class of 1977! Hope you're all having a wonderful time. Please take a moment to send a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories and/or anything you want to share. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 1978

**Matthew Nemerson**  
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Here we go again. I don't mind getting older. I'm calmer and happier, exercise more and generally have a much better outlook on everything. Still, I don't like September. Oh, the weather is great, there is football and baseball at the same time and everyone seems very serious about business and working on Friday afternoons. But when the holidays come and we aren't going away on the weekends I have a real sense of another year being etched off the tablet. There is something both so cliché but also so accurate about the fall of life and the very certain smell of running out of the endless time we all sensed in college as the leaves begin to turn again this time.

**Gary Pickholz** SIPA'81, who has been updating some of us on the nuances of the last Israeli elections writes, "English is such a marvelous lingua franca — *recrudescence*: Go ahead, find a comparably concise term in any other major tongue."





Rav Aryeh (Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38) and Reb Zisheh (Sidney Morgenbesser) would approve with a definitive 'yeah, right.' Reb Zisheh might have added his infamous 'What is it that you maximize in Jewish decision theory? Regret.'

Looking back at how we are different from our children, he notes, "We were vastly more optimistic about our futures professionally, personally and as paterfamilias than our sons today. And both generations are correct in their respective analyses."

Looking ahead, Gary unveiled a program that he created at some of his stomping grounds: "Shira and I have been blessed with the opportunity to endow a small set of Pickholz Scholars as a 'post-Rhodes Scholar Rhodes Scholarship,' permitting some of my Oxford students to go for moonshots that may truly alter the world for good, but require far longer than two years effort and VC seed funding. I have partnered to create a comparable program for Israeli scholars studying at Columbia, Harvard and Stanford. Nothing is more vital to future Israeli-Diaspora relations than to see a significant number of next-generation Israeli leadership secure their advanced degrees in the United States, and live among us."

From Mintz Levin in New York, Jeffrey Moerdler notes, "We recently had our fifth grandchild, and two of our kids and their families have moved from apartments on the West Side — one to New Milford, N.J. (near Teaneck), and the other to New Rochelle, N.Y. The third is still on the West Side. We are lucky that they are all within a 20-minute drive from Riverdale, albeit in different directions."

The always reliable Thomas Reuter SEAS'79, with General Electric, is back with a new message for us: "My oldest son, Matthew '07, contributed a piece on Columbia men's lacrosse for 'The Last Word' column in CCT's Spring 2019 issue, and the staff selected one of my color photos from the 2006 Columbia-Princeton game to accompany it. Look on your coffee table and you will no doubt find it. My next challenge is to be paid for my work like my youngest son, Tim '11. Google 'Timothy Reuter and Syrian Civil War' for a sample of his work."

We asked about favorite trips and Tom noted, "I have visited all the

Grand Slam tennis sites: London, Paris and Melbourne. [Also] the Mauna Kea Observatories on the island of Hawaii; I thought there were a lot of stars at 6,000 ft. — by the time you reach 9,000 ft. there were at least a billion more. Carl Sagan was right!"

Philip Vecchio has been married to Catherine since 1985. He writes, "I am far more appreciative of our Founding Fathers and what they have done to create the greatest civilization in the history of mankind. I am also appreciative that Columbia was devoted to teaching Western civilization and requiring students to read the classics; more so now than in 1978. But when I look at the campus today, I unfortunately perceive the inmates now run the asylum. We need to emphasize respecting the wisdom that comes from experience."

Phil's goal "is to transition into 'retirement,' where I am working pro-bono for a Christian charity or mission domestically or internationally. My wife and I have traveled to Florence, Italy, and Cork, Ireland; both were stunningly beautiful for different reasons. We now hope to travel to Alaska and to many of the National Parks that we have not had the opportunity to visit while busy raising children and paying bills."

Al Feliu LAW'81 tells us, "I have had a rewarding career as an employment lawyer and arbitrator and mediator. Most of my work now is as a neutral (arbitrator, mediator, investigator), although I have a small law practice and counsel clients. I live in New Rochelle with my wife of 33 years, Susan Hobart LAW'83, an attorney with Shearman & Sterling, whom I met at the Law School. We have three grown children all living in the New York area. The classmates I interact most with are Joe Greenaway and John Flores."

"My perspective when I was at the College was more hopeful than kids' today, what with remnants of the '60s 'we are going to change the world for the better.' This generation seems more inward looking and pessimistic about their futures, with good cause. However, the College is much more attuned to the needs of the student body, it appears, than was the case in the 1970s — a very good development. I plan to continue to enjoy time with my wonderful family and my legal practice."

Chuck Callan says he is looking ahead and looking forward to "reading and rereading the Great Books and to be transported into the world of the mind. Russian literature, French romance, Greek tragedy and comedy."

And finally, William Hartung, with the Center for International Policy, is "continuing my work at a progressive foreign policy think tank. I have done a lot of writing aimed at ending U.S. arms sales and military support for the Saudi regime due to its brutal war in Yemen, in which it has killed thousands of civilians in indiscriminate air strikes and driven the country to the brink of famine. Congress has begun to take notice of this issue, passing a number of amendments to block U.S. arms and military support to the Saudi regime. So far, these efforts have been vetoed by the Trump administration, but the political calculus is shifting as I write this. I have also spearheaded an effort to promote substantial cuts in Pentagon spending, under the umbrella of the Sustainable Defense Task Force, a group of experts that includes former military personnel, White House and Congressional budget analysts, and representatives of non-governmental organizations."

Thinking of campus life today he says, "I believe that life is more stressful for kids coming up today, from college debt to a lack of well-paying jobs with job security to larger issues like the impact of climate change on their futures." He plans to "build my organization into a bigger player in the foreign policy debate while making time for family and fun, including my hobby as a standup comic."

William's favorite recent trips include China and South Africa; he also "has enjoyed regular trips to Mexico, Paris and London, and a recent trip to Prague."

I have to brag a bit as my wife, Marian Chertow BC'77, was recently put in the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame for her work as an environmental leader in her role as a professor at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and sitting on many boards and committees around the world. If you remember, her thing is reducing waste and thinking about things like garbage, recycling and how businesses can co-locate to be more efficient and waste fewer resources.

She also won the International Society for Industrial Ecology's Society Prize, awarded every two years, at this year's conference in Beijing. And did I mention that my daughter Joy is working for a food-tech startup in Shanghai and writing a blog about bugs called "Get Bug-gie"? You could look it up.

## 1979

**Robert Klapper**  
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News from Joe Ferullo: "I retired from CBS in March. I was the executive VP of programming for the company's syndicated television division, overseeing such shows as *Judge Judy*, *Dr. Phil*, *Rachael Ray Show* and *Entertainment Tonight*, among others. A wonderful gig, a great place — but after 13 years there (and 12 years before that at NBC News), it was time to move on and exhale."

"I had no Plan B, still don't. But I did get a call in late March from the owner of the Washington, D.C., newspaper/website *The Hill* — we'd met years ago over business negotiations. He asked me to write a regular opinion column from Los Angeles for *The Hill* on media and politics."

"It's been a bit of a college-dream-come-true. I was editor-in-chief of *Spectator* back in the day, and initially pursued a career in print journalism — where almost everyone's dream is to be a columnist. So, this is a fun return to the beginning. We'll see what happens from here, but it has been an unanticipated gift."

"Family matters: My wife, Sylvia Lopez, spent more than 25 years as a local news anchor here in Los Angeles, left three years ago to pursue a master's in public health and now does research for UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. My oldest daughter, Daniella, an NYU grad, is developing an executive career in Hollywood — she is an assistant to the president of the combined Disney/Fox television studios. Our younger daughter, Isabella, is a junior at The George Washington University in D.C., majoring in psychology, which will be helpful to the entire family. All the best!"



**Howard Z. Goldschmidt PS'83** was recently appointed president of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Shaare Zedek is the busiest hospital in Jerusalem and is well known for its innovative treatment of heart disease, stroke and trauma. Howie continues to teach cardiology and practice interventional echocardiography at Shaare Zedek every February. The rest of the year, he is director of echocardiography at The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, N.J. His wife of 34 years, Debbie, is a lawyer specializing in immigration law; he has three children, and four grandsons who live in Israel.

Howie writes, "I have only fond memories of my years on Morningside Heights. The liberal arts education was incomparable. Exposure to Art Humanities and modern literature was the perfect antidote to the pre-med grind. 'Eliot Joyce, Pound,' taught by Wallace Gray, and 'Italian Cinema,' taught by Pellegrino D'Acerno, shaped my cultural tastes. In my senior year, I was lucky to take Willard Gaylin's Freud course and Arthur Hertzberg's 'History of Zionism,' both of which gave me strong foundations for continued study."

**Robert C. Klapper:** Today's Columbia memory comes from a small, skinny-legged, 36-inch-high table that I recently uncovered in my garage. I made this table with my father, Abraham the carpenter, before starting my senior year living in Furnald. The reason for the dimensions of tall, skinny legs and being 10 inch x 24 inch is because this table fits perfectly over the radiator (pronounced raa-diator, like radical, not ray-diator, like radiate — and I still say pocketbooks, not purses, because I still bleed Columbia blue).

As you might recall, it was forbidden to cook in our dorm rooms. But during my junior year, in a visit to a friend's Shangri-La in Furnald (remember this was a coveted building, only for seniors), I saw the light — a custom-made table fitted perfectly over the steam heated coils! My parents could not afford to give me any financial assistance, so tuition and room and board came solely from my work in the Catskill Mountains and the bowling alley job at Ferris Booth. Money was tight, and I realized I could no longer afford the meal plan. So when I saw

a box of Corn Flakes and ramen noodles on this custom-made table over the radiator, it was as though the holy grail of surviving my senior year came into view.

I immediately took the A train home to Far Rockaway and told my father we needed to make a custom table like one I had just seen. This turned out to be one of the great moments in my life with my father. To him, it was a perfect way to provide some support for my journey to a better life. We immediately jumped in his truck and went to his wood shop. I remember him saying, "Robby, we're going to do this together, because I want to teach you how to make this table." He said the skinny legs would be made from a long piece of 2 inch x 2 inch wood. He asked me how high it had to be to sit just above the radiator; I said 36 inches. He said, "OK, take my tape measure and the pencil from behind your ear and measure 36 inches and make a mark." We then used a table saw to cut along the line making the first leg of the table.

He then said, "OK, now let's make this second leg from this 2x2 piece of wood." He then explained, "Robby, you no longer need the ruler, because we will use this first leg as the template for the second leg." I laid the first leg along the long piece of wood, took the pencil from behind my ear and made the mark. I then cut the second leg. I was about to use the second leg as a template for the third leg, when my father said, "No Robby, don't do that. The second leg cannot be the template for the third leg because if you made even the slightest error, this error will magnify with each subsequent leg you make. Go back and use the first leg you made as the template for legs two, three and four."

He then said something that I will always remember and cherish: "Robby, you must always go back to the original." This metaphor for my life has been my mantra in the many facets of my journey as a surgeon, inventor, author, sculptor and ESPN radio host. That table saved me money from the meal plan. The Corn Flakes and ramen noodles it allowed me to stack sustained me my whole senior year. But it was in building that table that I learned the greatest life lesson and enjoyed one of the greatest moments I ever had with my dad.

What relics are in your garage? Let me know. Roar, Lion, Roar!

## 1980

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

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It's official. Our 40th-year reunion will be held Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6, in New York City. Your Reunion Committee has been working diligently on the agenda, with a cocktail party, all-class bash at the New York Public Library and our class dinner on Saturday planned so far. You can expect an event-filled weekend with plenty of opportunities to reconnect with classmates. Please reach out to all your College friends to remind them to come back to campus!

**Jim Schachter** will take over as CEO of New Hampshire Public Radio, succeeding former chief executive Betsy Gardella. Jim previously held the top news executive position at WNYC, the country's largest

public media station. In his role there, he oversaw programs including *On the Media*, *The Brian Lehrer Show* and *Radio Rookies*. Before joining WNYC, Jim spent nearly 17 years at *The New York Times*, where he was associate managing editor.

**Greg Peterson** was recently named to the "Best Lawyers in America" 2020 list. He is a partner at Casner & Edwards in Boston, where his practice specializes in real estate development and environmental law.

**Matt Kennedy** has been working with fellow lacrosse alumni to promote the sport at Columbia, with the ultimate goal of making men's lacrosse a varsity sport. Anyone interested in learning more about the initiative can check out makeit8.com. Also, for those who missed it, check out CCT's Spring 2019 issue, page 88, "The Last Word," or college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring19.

Congratulations to **Dr. George Yancopoulos GSAS'86, PS'87** on receiving the 2019 Alexander Hamilton Medal. George is the president and chief scientific officer at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. He holds many patents, is active in STEM educational commitments and is a supporter of the College.

Looking forward to seeing you all at reunion in June! Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.



Lance Warrick '79 ran into Ben Drachman '17 on July 30 in Washington State. Warrick was hiking north on a 75-mile section of the Pacific Crest Trail when he crossed paths with Drachman, who was hiking south on his attempt to hike the entire length of the 2,653-mile trail from Canada to Mexico.

DARRELL LEE





## 1981

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Greetings for winter, Class of 1981! I heard from **James Klatsky** about the addition of two grandchildren: Madeline, born in April to his son, Michael, and his wife, Lauren (they also have a son, Sammy); and Mia, born in July to his daughter, Elisheva, and her husband, Marc. I'm not sure if James is located physically close to his grandchildren, but if so, he now has his weekends blocked out with grandparent duties!

Congratulations, and best wishes for your grandchildren.

On a personal note, I have moved from Northern Virginia to Charlottesville (again), this time for good. We are empty-nesters save for our three dogs — all good. Hope to hear from more classmates in the near future!

## 1982

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No news this time, gents! Please make it a New Year's resolution to send in some news. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 1983

**Roy Pomerantz**  
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My boys and I attended several Columbia Lions baseball games this past season at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium. The games are free and the adjoining football field is open to the public. The Lions are very competitive and lost to Harvard this year in the championship Ivy League playoffs. Phil Satow '65 told a memorable story at the 2014 Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner, the year he was the honoree. Phil was a middling second baseman when he played for Columbia and lamented that the

coach could never remember his name. "Thankfully, that's no longer a problem," he said with a chuckle during his acceptance speech.

My wife, Dr. Deborah Gahr, and I again hosted a NYC Summer Send-off for entering Columbia students. Several classmates attended, including **Ken Chin, Peter Ripin, Bruce Abramson, Eric Wertzer** and **Jon Ross**. Matthew Patashnick, associate dean for student and family support at Columbia, welcomed the students.

**Bruce Abramson** is a senior fellow at the London Center for Policy Research and director of policy at the Iron Dome Alliance. He is also a technology lawyer and expert witness in private practice. He is the author of *Digital Phoenix: Why the Information Economy Collapsed and How It Will Rise Again* (2005), *The Secret Circuit: The Little-Known Court Where the Rules of the Information Age Unfold* (2007) and numerous articles on the interplay among technology, business, law and public policy. Bruce's multidisciplinary practice draws upon his experience as a computer scientist, an economist and an attorney. He has helped clients navigate litigation, negotiation, growth, technology assessment, merger and regulatory settings.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Bruce developed deep experience teaching and researching artificial intelligence, big data, Bayesian modeling, statistics and forecasting. He then deployed those skills in a variety of economic settings, shifting his focus into economic modeling. His practical expertise includes valuing intellectual property and other asset classes; assessing damages and royalties; evaluating and deploying patents, products, digital copyrights and technologies; devising growth strategies; drafting licenses, contracts and patents; determining and predicting competitive effects and market responses; modeling and analyzing complex data; assembling and managing cross-functional teams; facilitating communication among engineering, management and legal teams; marketing and cultivating client relationships; teaching, research and public speaking; and publishing books and articles on technology, business and law.

**Peter Ripin** is a litigation partner with Davidoff Hutter & Citron and has assisted numerous institutions and individuals in resolving breach of contract, real estate and



Roy Pomerantz '83 hosted an NYC Summer Sendoff for entering Columbia students; several alumni friends came to the event to welcome the new students. Left to right: Pomerantz, Ken Chin '83, Peter Ripin '83, Bruce Abramson '83, Eric Wertzer '83 and Jon Ross '83.

partnership disputes; defending franchise owners; and protecting trade secrets and confidential information. He has also written extensively, lectured and been interviewed on numerous legal issues affecting the hotel and hospitality industries.

From **Eddy Friedfeld**: "On August 25, **Neal Smolar** and Betsy Chutter Smolar BC'85's daughter Abigail was married to Daniel Stern at a beautiful event in a converted

Betsy had just celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. I introduced them during senior year at Columbia and despite that fact I have been a welcome and grateful guest at their High Holiday dinner table for 29 out of the last 30 years."

From **Drew Velting**: "For the last several years, I've been writing and performing Americana and roots-oriented music with acoustic guitar (6- and 12-string), banjo and

Core Haiku

Here in my 50s  
As I first read the Core texts;  
I blame the CliffsNotes

— Lou Orfanella '82

warehouse in Paterson, N.J. Present were five of the six inaugural residents of Suite 505 East Campus: **Steve Arenson, Adam Bayroff, Eddy Friedfeld, Len Rosen** and **Neal** (the sixth is **Teddy Weinberger**) — we all maintain that the holes in the walls were there when we moved in. Also in attendance were **Larry Herman, Aron Kressel '81, Mark Segall '84, Ray Edelman '82, Leslie Pressner Edelman BC'85, Miriam Kushner BC'83** and **Monica Marks Aboodi BC'85**. Everyone looked great, and it was fun catching up. As of this writing, Neal and

harmonica. Last year, I recorded and released my first single, "The Mournful Death of Heather Heyer," to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Unite the Right rally and counter-protests in Charlottesville. The song is available for digital download, and proceeds are being donated to the Heather Heyer Foundation. Heather's mother, Susan Bro, and I were interviewed in a CBS19 News (the Charlottesville, Va., affiliate) feature story and *Newsday* also featured an article about the song. The video is available on my YouTube channel.



# Alumni Sons and Daughters

Seventy members of the Columbia College Class of 2023 and five members of the Columbia Engineering Class of 2023 are sons or daughters of College alumni. This list is alphabetical by the parent(s)' last name.

| STUDENT  | PARENT   | STUDENT                                    | PARENT  | STUDENT  | PARENT   |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Alexander Aibel<br><i>Santa Monica, Calif.</i> | Sarah Aibel '92  | Sylvie Epstein<br><i>Brooklyn, N.Y.</i>    | Daniel Futterman '89                                    | Christian Law<br><i>Mount Sinai, N.Y.</i>            | Edward Law '86   |
| Caroline Alleyne<br><i>La Jolla, Calif.</i>    | Neville Alleyne '79                                      | Marcus Fong<br><i>Hong Kong Island</i>     | William Fong '87  | Jackson Law<br><i>Mount Sinai, N.Y.</i>              | Edward Law '86   |
| Charlotte Atkins<br><i>Naples, Fla.</i>        | Charles Atkins '86                                       | Alexander Glasberg<br><i>New York City</i> | Scot Glasberg '86                                       | Olivia Lease *<br><i>Inverness, Calif.</i>           | Elizabeth Lease '02                                      |
| Nader Babar<br><i>Houston</i>                  | Nadeem Babar '87   | Mary Grealy<br><i>McLean, Va.</i>          | Francis Grealy Jr. '75                                  | Hannah Lederman<br><i>San Francisco</i>              | Ilene Lederman '87                                       |
| Andre Balian<br><i>Skillman, N.J.</i>          | John Balian '85  | Andrew Haberman<br><i>New York City</i>    | Sinclair Haberman '78                                   | Samuel Levine<br><i>Great Neck, N.Y.</i>             | Gregory Levine '83                                       |
| Sareen Balian<br><i>Chevy Chase, Md.</i>       | Nairi Balian '88   | Leah Hale *<br><i>Weston, Fla.</i>         | Martin Hale '74   | Lucy Blumenfeld<br><i>Culver City, Calif.</i>        | Jaclyn S. Lieber '88                                     |
| Pierce Woodall<br><i>Coppell, Texas</i>        | Tracy Bender '92   | Rebecca Hale<br><i>Weston, Fla.</i>        | Martin Hale '74   | Emma Lill<br><i>Loganville, Ga.</i>                  | Jason Lill '96   |
| Jonathan Berkowitz<br><i>Potomac, Md.</i>      | Philip Berkowitz '88                                     | James Harrison<br><i>Bronx, N.Y.</i>       | David Harrison '83                                      | Emily Lim<br><i>Asheville, N.C.</i>                  | Chang Lim '87  |
| Edward Brodsky<br><i>New York City</i>         | Leslie G. Brodsky '88                                    | Liam Hayes *<br><i>Greenwich, Conn.</i>    | Andrew Hayes '85  | Alexander Mendelson<br><i>Miami, Fla.</i>            | Victor Mendelson '89                                     |
| Samantha Camacho<br><i>Nyack, N.Y.</i>         | Michael Camacho '91 and<br>Patricia Labrada '91          | Samuel Hosmer<br><i>Belmont, Calif.</i>    | Basil Hosmer '85  | Ruby Mendelsund<br><i>New York City</i>              | Peter Mendelsund '91                                     |
| Kevin Chaikelson<br><i>New York City</i>       | Steven Chaikelson '89 and<br>Amanda Rosen Chaikelson '91 | Samuel Hyman<br><i>Newburgh, N.Y.</i>      | Barry Hyman '77   | Zoe Meshel<br><i>Roslyn, N.Y.</i>                    | Adam Meshel '92 and<br>Samara Meshel '92                 |
| Claire Choi<br><i>Washington, D.C.</i>         | John Choi '91  | Zoe Hyman<br><i>Englewood, N.J.</i>        | Joshua Hyman '85  | Zoe Metalios<br><i>Riverside, Conn.</i>              | Steve Metalios '89 and Joy<br>Metalios (née Kim) SEAS'90 |
| Olivia Choi<br><i>Washington, D.C.</i>         | John Choi '91  | Sameer Joshi<br><i>Cranbury, N.J.</i>      | Jitendra Joshi '90                                      | Anthony Ozerov<br><i>Moscow</i>                      | Serge Ozerov '85   |
| Yasmine Dahlberg<br><i>Stockholm</i>           | Jennifer Anglade<br>Dahlberg '93                         | Elyse Kanner *<br><i>Armonk, N.Y.</i>      | Michael Kanner '90                                      | Maximilian Ozerov<br><i>Moscow</i>                   | Serge Ozerov '85   |
| Sonali Dasari<br><i>Brentwood, Tenn.</i>       | Sriram Dasari '92  | Ethan Kim<br><i>South Orange, N.J.</i>     | Arthur Kim '95  | Andrew Riordan<br><i>Greenville, S.C.</i>            | Michael Riordan '80                                      |
| Elizabeth DeSouza<br><i>Darien, Conn.</i>      | Patrick DeSouza '80                                      | Alexandra Kirk<br><i>Rye, N.Y.</i>         | Edward Kirk '92   | Jackson Roberts<br><i>New York City</i>              | Lauren Roberts '90                                       |
| Javier Dobles<br><i>Holden, Mass.</i>          | Ricardo Dobles '89                                       | Margot Kleinman<br><i>New York City</i>    | Howard Kleinman '84                                     | Hattie Rogovin<br><i>Los Angeles</i>                 | John Rogovin '83   |
| Luke Dobrovic<br><i>Oakton, Va.</i>            | Nino Dobrovic '86  | Hani Kodmani<br><i>London, U.K.</i>        | Omar Kodmani '89  | Juliette Rooney<br><i>London, U.K.</i>               | Robert Rooney '89  |
| Brenna Dugel<br><i>Paradise Valley, Ariz.</i>  | Pravin Dugel '84   | Lindsay Kornguth<br><i>Orinda, Calif.</i>  | David Kornguth '87 and<br>Linda Kornguth (née Wang) '87 | Miriam Alvarez-Rosenbloom<br><i>Cambridge, Mass.</i> | Rachel E.<br>Rosenbloom '90                              |
| Stephen Eisner<br><i>New York City</i>         | Linda Mischel Eisner '87                                 | Bertina Kudrin<br><i>Fort Lee, N.J.</i>    | Sergey Kudrin '81                                       | Darius Rubin<br><i>London, U.K.</i>                  | James Rubin '82  |





| STUDENT   | PARENT   |
|---|--|
| <b>Miles Schachner</b><br><i>Miami, Fla.</i>                                    | <b>Seth Schachner '85</b>                                  |
| <b>Isabel Schmidt</b><br><i>Seattle</i>   | <b>Benjamin Schmidt '86</b>                                |
| <b>James Schwann</b><br><i>Ottawa Hills, Ohio</i>                               | <b>Thomas Schwann '82</b>                                  |
| <b>Isabelle Seckler</b><br><i>Boca Raton, Fla.</i>                              | <b>Jonathan Seckler '87</b>                                |
| <b>Doran Sekaran</b><br><i>Weston, Conn.</i>                                    | <b>Rajan Sekaran '82</b>                                   |
| <b>Boaz Shaham</b><br><i>New York City</i>                                      | <b>Shai Shaham '89</b>                                     |
| <b>Yena Shin *</b><br><i>Palisades, N.Y.</i>                                    | <b>Duke Shin '89</b>                                       |
| <b>Raphael Simonson</b><br><i>Teaneck, N.J.</i>                                 | <b>Alexander Simonson '84</b>                              |
| <b>Eleanor Streit</b><br><i>Tarrytown, N.Y.</i>                                 | <b>James Streit '88</b>                                    |
| <b>Natalie Tak</b><br><i>Weston, Mass.</i>                                      | <b>Thomas Tak '91</b>                                      |
| <b>Leora Schloss</b><br><i>Bronx, N.Y.</i>                                      | <b>Aviva Taubenfeld '92</b>                                |
| <b>Miriam Weinstein</b><br><i>Hoboken, N.J.</i>                                 | <b>James Weinstein '84</b>                                 |
| <b>Mizia Wessel</b><br><i>Washington, D.C.</i>                                  | <b>Carlton Wessel '84</b>                                  |
| <b>Eva Westphal</b><br><i>Chestnut Hill, Mass.</i>                              | <b>Christoph Westphal '90</b>                              |
| <b>Leif Wood</b><br><i>East Hampton, N.Y.</i>                                   | <b>Timothy Wood '96 and<br/>Mira Dougherty-Johnson '96</b> |
| Six Columbia College transfer students are sons or daughters of College alumni. |  |
| <b>Kemal Aziz '22</b><br><i>Staten Island, N.Y.</i>                             | <b>Irfan Aziz '90 and<br/>Radhi Majmudar '90</b>           |
| <b>Nina Halberstadter '22</b><br><i>Scotch Plains, N.J.</i>                     | <b>Milton H. Beller '63</b>                                |
| <b>Adam Burns '22</b><br><i>New York City</i>                                   | <b>Ric Burns '78</b>                                       |
| <b>Ariel David '22</b><br><i>New Rochelle, N.Y.</i>                             | <b>Michael David '89</b>                                   |
| <b>Jonathan Otto-Bernstein '22</b><br><i>New York City</i>                      | <b>Katharina<br/>Otto-Bernstein '86</b>                    |
| <b>Thalia von Moltke-Simms '22</b><br><i>Princeton, N.J.</i>                    | <b>Clifford<br/>Simms '86</b>                              |

\* member of the Columbia Engineering Class of 2023

"I'm planning the release of another single and title track of my first EP, *Where Do the Homeless Dwell?* I'm really enjoying the opportunity to perform live, write and record music and share it with others. My website is [drewveltingmusic.com](http://drewveltingmusic.com).

"On a more personal note, my wife, Olivia; children, Addie and Otto; and I recently spent a week-end in Manhattan that included a walk around the Columbia campus. Wonderful to step inside John Jay for the first time in almost 40 years. Brought back many great memories. Stopped by The Hungarian Pastry Shop for dessert to top things off. Also started rereading the Lit Hum syllabus earlier this year. My first introduction to Sappho! Writing poetry again after a long hiatus and submitting for publication. Hoped to get to a football game this fall and was looking forward to catching up with classmates."

From **Steve Arenson LAW'86**: "We live in Riverdale and have three boys (13, 11 and 8) and a girl. Thank G-d, everyone is doing well. I practice law in the field of employment litigation with my own firm, Arenson, Dittmar & Karban, in Manhattan. We recently concluded a seven-year battle for 106 immigrant car wash workers who were exploited, working 12 hours a day, six to seven days a week, for \$40-\$50 a day in cash. We obtained the largest recovery ever in the low-pay car wash industry. Here's a link to the article in *The New York Times* about the case: [nyti.ms/2oE5oyJ](https://nyti.ms/2oE5oyJ).

From **Gerrard Bushell GSAS'84**: "It has been a while since I wrote. I have spent the last four and half years working in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration as president and CEO of DASNY, one of the nation's most prolific issuers of municipal debt and largest public builders. I am proud to work with Columbia on a number of important financings critical to the development of the Manhattanville campus. DASNY is proud to partner with Columbia on such a magnificent project. I have had the great pleasure to tour the Jerome L. Greene Science Center and the Lenfest Center for the Arts. It's a magnificent campus and I get to look at it every Tuesday or Wednesday night on my drive back from Albany, when I cut across Broadway.

"DASNY is the financier for social infrastructure across New York State, and we have done incredible work with colleges and universities across New York. Our work in life sciences with CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, Columbia's Jerome L. Greene Science Center and NYU's Tandon School of Engineering has supported an important research corridor across Manhattan. DASNY helps New York State remain a major player in the efforts to attract talent, and support inclusion.

"I have also followed my dream. For years, I had wanted to teach at Columbia and, over the last two years, have had the pleasure to teach an undergraduate seminar on cities and development, and one on states, finance and economic development. It tickled me to stand in room 711 of the International Affairs Building every Wednesday night, where I was once an undergraduate and graduate student studying with Professor Alan Westin, Professor Charles V. Hamilton SW'82 and Professor Robert Y. Shapiro (who still teaches political science).

"My daughter, Claire, is a senior at Dalton and I have asked her, a New York City kid, to look at Columbia. She grew up swimming in the pool and hanging out [on campus] with me when I was working on my Ph.D. She is a much better student than I ever was, and she is excited by senior year. I do hope to keep in better touch over the next few years. Oh, I also work with Ricardo Salaman '81, who looked familiar to me."

From **Geoffrey Mintz**: "I moved to Lake Worth Beach, Fla. — near Palm Beach — about four years ago. Perhaps I will move back to NYC eventually. I am still doing the hat business, mostly making hats in Madagascar now. I have a little girl, my first child, who is 2. Sometimes she helps with endurance testing and modeling of the hats."

**Kevin G. Chapman** is thrilled that the first book in his crime-thriller series, *Righteous Assassin*, was named one of the top 20 mystery/thriller novels of 2019 by the Kindle Book Review. The second book in Kevin's Mike Stoneman Thriller Series, *Deadly Enterprise*, is scheduled for release on December 2. It is available on Amazon.

Hope to see you at some football and basketball games.



## 1984

**Dennis Klainberg**  
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**Mark Katzoff**, senior counsel at Seyfarth Shaw by day, channeled four years of experience singing in the piano bars of New York to debut his one-man cabaret show, *Two-City Man: A Musical Trifle*, at the Kraine Theater in New York in July. The show was based around Mark's experience shuttling between Boston and New York, although he continually claims he's not moving from Beantown.

**Daniel G. Berick** has been named Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law Lawyer of the Year for 2020 by *U.S. News & World Report* on its list "The Best Lawyers in America," a longstanding and well-respected legal peer-review publication. In each major legal market, only a single lawyer in each discipline is honored as Lawyer of the Year. Dan was honored in 2016 as the Cleveland Corporate Law Lawyer of the Year, and was named Cleveland Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law Lawyer of the Year in 2020, 2017, 2015 and 2013, as well as Cleveland Securities/Capital Markets Law Lawyer of the Year in 2014 and 2011.

This fall, **Mark Binder** released his 20th book, *The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul*. It's a light romance between two wise seniors in Chelm, the village of fools. Mark's planning a world book tour, so if you'd like to check out the book, or invite him to your community, go to markbinder.com.

**Danny Armstrong**, founder of Find A Tree, checks in. "Since the Find A Tree program's inception, it has changed lives and has created many success stories. More recently, I've been fortunate to have worked with major companies such as Nike, Microsoft and many others," he writes.

## 1985

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

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Many of our classmates continue to mark milestones and/or receive recognition for their professional activities. **Lucas Collazo** celebrated 20 years at Inova Health System. He is co-director of the Pediatric Heart Program and medical staff president

at the Inova Fairfax Medical Campus in Falls Church, Va.

**James Lima** was recently in the news: As part of a strategic regional business initiative, the Long Island Regional Planning Council recently approved consulting services with James Lima Planning + Development to advance development of a workforce training center, The Long Island Innovation Park at Hauppauge (formerly known as the Hauppauge Industrial Park). Jim's company has advised major Silicon Valley firms on building out their campuses and ecosystems, and will undertake economic and demographic research, setting the stage for the launch of a high-impact regional workforce center.

**Patrick Ward** left NYC in 1995, moving first to the San Francisco Bay Area and eventually settling in Denver, "where we have lived for the past 17 years, raising two daughters, one of whom is hoping to be CC'24. I have fond memories (as ironic as it may sound) of Columbia football games, which I still enjoy from afar with my father, James Ward '50, LAW'53, brother Liam Ward '82 and cousin Sam Ward '82. I also have fond memories of my time playing club lacrosse and support the club team as we work to convert lacrosse to a varsity sport at Columbia (#makeit8, makeit8.com). I have owned my own PR/strategic communications business in Denver, 104 West Partners, since 2003."

Kudos to **Tom Vinciguerra** for his great article in the Fall 2019 *CCT* about the woman who earned the distinction of being the College's first alumna, in 1975. [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads" in that issue.]

The 2019-20 academic year is highlighted by the centenary of the Core Curriculum (look for articles in this *CCT* and in the next two issues) and, of course, our 35th reunion, Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6. Our Reunion Committee, co-chaired by Glee Club alums **John Phelan** (programming), **Leslie Smartt** (communications) and yours truly (fundraising), is up and running. In my next column, I will give you the complete list of committee members (currently in formation). Thanks in advance to so many of you for joining. Committee membership is not capped, so please feel free to let any of us know if you'd like to join our efforts, if

you're coming to reunion or if there's anything specific you'd like to see during that weekend. We've already begun conference calls to make sure we have fun and interesting class-specific program options, have regular communications leading up to next June and can meet our class fundraising goals.

And, of course, it is the perfect opportunity to provide me with any updates for this column!

## 1986

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**Michael Goldfischer** reported on a great event that took place on September 13: "Twelve Lions descended on Washington, D.C., to celebrate **Scott Smith's** 32 years in the Air Force, which culminated in his rise to the rank of major general. The official ceremony at Bolling AFB highlighted Scott's many assignments and achievements, as a pilot and staff officer, that spanned the globe in both peace and war. Scott was joined by his wife, Amber, and daughters, twins Mazie and Marisha (14) and Melody (9), who were also honored for their sacrifices and service. Melody started the ceremony with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Maj. Gen. Smith was thanked for his service, given a Distinguished Service Medal and a presidential proclamation, and gifted an American flag during the moving ceremony.

"In Maj. Gen. Smith's comments, while thanking Amber and their daughters, parents, mentors and colleagues in the armed services, he took time to highlight the tremendous support and friendship that his fellow Columbians (and Fiji brothers) have extended to him throughout these decades. In attendance were **Jack Merrick**, **John Murphy**, **Patrick McGarrigle**, Gary Ireland GS'86, Andrew Upton '85, Joseph Titlebaum '85, Dominick DeCicco SEAS'84, Arthur Ajzenman '83, Matthew Barr '87, Stan Sagner '88 and James Hirshfield SEAS'87. We were all honored to attend and to thank him for his friendship, service to our country and sacrifice.

"As Scott and his family enter the next chapter of their lives, we join the



Columbia alumni met in Washington, D.C., for the September 13 retirement ceremony of Maj. Gen. Scott Smith '86, who served 32 years in the Air Force. Left to right: Jack Merrick '86, Smith, Stan Sagner '88, Patrick McGarrigle '86, John Murphy '86, Joseph Titlebaum '85, Gary Ireland GS'86, Arthur Ajzenman '83, Andrew Upton '85, Dominick DeCicco SEAS'84, Smith's Air Force colleague B.J. Shwedo, his high school friend Ramsey Masri and Michael Goldfischer '86.





On September 7, Columbia friends held their 33rd annual fantasy football draft in Montreal. Left to right: Dave Moson '89, Mike English SEAS '89, Marc McCann '88, Ravi Singh '88 (foreground) and Rob Daniel '88.

Headquarters Air Staff and heartily wish Maj. Gen. Smith and his family good luck, Godspeed and L'Chaim. An island-themed party followed the ceremony, where tall tales were told and laughter filled the air."

We're proud of you, Scott, and what you have achieved during your fantastic career in the Air Force. We wish you continued success and joy!

## 1987

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Lots of great news from **Garth Stein** SOA'90, who writes: "Big events! In May, my eldest, Caleb (23), graduated from the Berklee College of Music. In August, the movie of my book *The Art of Racing in the Rain* was released, and I took my family to Los Angeles for the premiere. We hung out with Milo Ventimiglia and Amanda Seyfried. And Kevin Costner. I also turned in my new novel, *A Couple of Old Birds*, with the publication date to be determined. I'm also prepping my graphic novel, *The Cloven*, for publication in July 2020. We will launch at San Diego Comic-Con!"

**Suzanne Waltman** writes that this year marks the 33rd consecutive year of a book group founded by several members of CC'87. "Ginger

**Segel, Rob Wolf, Bob Pipik** and I were in the original group, which we began in December 1986," Suzanne says. "As I remember, Ginger had graduated early and wanted to keep reading in a formal setting. She left New York shortly after, but Rob and I have continued all these years. Originally many of us lived in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and that was the book group's focal point. **Karin Higa, Lydia Tzagoloff, Jon Klavens, Rebecca Turner and Julia Fitzgerald** all participated in the early years. More recent members include **Lisa Fieteholtz '88** and **Kevin Kelly '85**. It has been a big part of Rob's and my life for so many years, and it definitely has its roots in Columbia and Lit Hum."

I heard from my Carman 5 floormate **Divya Singh**, who always has a fascinating story. Divya recently started working part-time in Shiprock, N.M., at the Northern Navajo Indian reservation, making her a federal employee, as the Indian Health Service is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. Although still based in Seattle, Divya lives on the reservation when she is working but has had time to explore the Four Corners region on weekends. She writes, "Last time, I met up with **Jeanne Costello** (also Carman 5!) in her hometown of Durango. She has my dream job — she's a book buyer at the independent bookstore Maria's Bookshop. I hadn't seen her in more than 30 years. She is as fabulous as ever."

As always, keep your wonderful updates coming!

## 1988

**Eric Fusfield**  
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**Dave Fondiller** SIPA'92 is putting the skills he honed at *Spectator* and the *Columbian* (yearbook) to good use. After more than 11 years at the Boston Consulting Group, most recently as head of North America PR and communications, he recently joined Altran, a digital product engineering company, as VP of communications for its North America division. In this role, Dave oversees PR, executive communications,

internal communications and digital and social media. In addition, he is chief communications officer of frog (lowercase is correct!), one of the world's leading design and innovation firms and an Altran company. With a workforce of 47,000 and sales of \$3.3 billion, Altran partners with both blue-chip corporations and startups to help them design, develop and support complex technology products and services.

"The company is literally at the forefront of today's hottest tech trends — 5G, edge computing, virtualization, AI, the Internet of Things — and I'm loving it," Dave writes. He and his wife, Jennifer BC'88, who is VP for enrollment at Barnard, live in Edgemont, Westchester County. They have two

expected that after the 25th, the passion and intensity of the 30th would in some way pale in comparison. That's what seems to happen in other classes. Not ours. Our 30th reunion was as much fun — possibly an even better time — than the last."

The summer went by too quickly for most of us. At the time of writing this column, many of us are planning to get to Homecoming Weekend in October, so we'll have an update next time about that.

I touched base with **Christina Ying**, who loved our 30th reunion: Highlights for her included connecting with **Ana Toledo, Diane Daltner, Susan Shin and John Kim**, among many others. Christina got a law degree at Georgetown and is a partner at Herrick Feinstein in New

### Core Haiku



Spring term, Wallace Gray  
*The Odyssey* blooms again,  
Yes yes yes YES!

— Paige Sinkler '88

daughters. The older, Anna BC'19, is pursuing a career in entertainment talent management. The younger, Julia, is a junior at Smith.

**Marc McCann** wrote from Montreal that some classmates joined him there for their 33rd annual fantasy football draft. "Our first draft was in 1987 in Hartley Hall with all Class of '88 guys," Marc says. "We've mixed things up a bit over the years, but original members still involved are **Mike Zegers SEAS '88, Rob Daniel, Doug Wolf and Ravi Singh**."

Keep sending me updates! I look forward to hearing from all of our classmates.

## 1989

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To begin this issue's column, **Roger Rubin** shares, "Our class continues to astound me with the way its members are drawn to one another and cannot wait to be reunited. I

York, focusing on real estate sales, acquisitions, developments and joint ventures involving office and retail properties. Christina also volunteers with the Columbia College Fund and spends her free time traveling to cheer on her daughter at fencing tournaments around the world.

It was nice for my husband, Dave Terry '90, and I to visit with **Eugene Ryang** at our reunion barbecue. Eugene says reunion "absolutely exceeded my expectations." Eugene got a master's in landscape architecture and cultural anthropology from UVA and works at Water Street Studio, an environmental design firm with offices in Charlottesville and Richmond.

Our class has created a leadership project to help us better communicate post-reunion about events and get together around the country. **Matt Engels** has volunteered to be our class president, and I hope we'll all hear from him with updates and class announcements. Matt lives in the Chicago area with his family, where he is president of SBCGlobal and enjoys watching the Engels's family sports legacy through his son, Tommy, who plays football, and his



daughter, Ellie, who plays volleyball. To reach Matt about any class activities, or to volunteer to be part of the CC'89 leadership project, email him at [mxengels@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mxengels@sbcglobal.net).

Also, **Jared Goldstein** asked that I remind everyone to check out our CC'89 Facebook group, which he runs: "Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates."

## 1990

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
[ccaa-events@columbia.edu](mailto:ccaa-events@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Rachel Cowan Jacobs**  
[youngrache@hotmail.com](mailto:youngrache@hotmail.com)

Since you last read this column, I have only a small amount of news. **Noreen Whysel** reports, "With a freshman at Sarah Lawrence College and a sophomore at Loyola University New Orleans, my husband, Brett, and I are officially empty-nesters — at least until they come home, too briefly, for the summer. I teach the UX Design Intensive at General Assembly (a global code and design school for adult learners; [generalassembly.ly](http://generalassembly.ly)) and web design at New York City College of Technology (aka City Tech). Coincidentally, while attempting to convert my résumé to an academic

CV, mulling over the awards section, I got a call that I'm going to receive a 'Contribution to the Profession' award from the New York State GIS Association. NYSGIS.net is a professional organization for geospatial information system (GIS) users working in New York State. GISMO is the local chapter where I've been a board member for many years."

Congratulations, Noreen!

**Alicia Shems** (née Katz) read our last column and identified herself as someone who skirts the college counseling world: "I tutor students in writing and English, as well as tutor and advise them with their college essays. Some of my students say they feel like they come to therapy as we discuss all the topics they could choose to write about. I have to say, I love working with teenagers — their angst, enthusiasm, drama and perception are wonderful and refreshing — and when they come up with an original idea and find their writing voice, it's really rewarding for me to see."

"Not content to have just one job, I also am a freelance editor, senior writer for an edtech startup and a mixed media artist. It's a little crazy, but I've never been very good at eliminating options and making choices. Nevertheless, my husband, Nessy, and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary and are now empty-nesters! It's a lot quieter here without our children, Matthew (23) and Leah (19), though since Matthew

is graduating this year, we might get him home for a couple months before he starts his job in computer science. Leah is studying fashion design, so she will probably end up in New York, which means I will get to visit Columbia more in the near future.

"I can't believe we are coming up on our 30-year reunion — I spent the first half in Chicago and now the second half in the Boston area. As for keeping in touch with CC friends, I recently visited **Teri Rice** in Miami, Fla., but cannot do that again easily since she recently moved to Dubai with her husband and sons; I also keep in touch with **Stephanie Aaronson** and **Elizabeth Phythian**."

Meanwhile, in September **Melissa Steinman** found herself

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
[olivier.knox@gmail.com](mailto:olivier.knox@gmail.com)

I heard from not one but two Carman 7 alums this cycle — keep 'em coming, erstwhile floormates!

**Tom Linton SEAS'92** and **Lauri Pendray Linton BC'93** moved to London in July. Tom is the managing director of Frontera Consulting (UK). A statement from the company heralds, "Tom has been instrumental in growing Frontera's Oracle Cloud capabilities in both the UK and North America." (That's right, everyone, we've reached the age at which companies put out statements about us.) Their son, Dylan (14), is in ninth

### Core Haiku



**Hamilton, Morris,  
Jay and the luminaries  
bring us together**

— Heather Brownlie '91

in Moscow, where she spoke at the Global Advertising Lawyers Alliance and connected with Greg Krasovsky '91, who attended the seminar.

It'd be great to report news from more people in the future. Please, friends, won't you send me your updates? And mark your calendars for our 30th reunion: Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6. Looking for something to do until then? Contact the Alumni Office and get on the Reunion Committee (contact info is at the top of the column). The more, the merrier.

## 1991

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

CCT thanks **Margie Kim** for her 11 excellent years of service as class correspondent! She has decided to step down, so while we search for a new class correspondent, you can send your news directly to CCT for inclusion in a future issue. And if you would like to learn more about volunteering for the class correspondent role, please shoot an email to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)!

grade at The American School in London. "How's the culture shock?" I asked Tom. "Not too bad!" he said.

I also heard from **Jason Hagberg**, who is heading back to NYC soon to work for Google "after 16 years on the West Coast (Los Angeles/San Francisco) and a few years in Hong Kong and Beijing." Jason writes that he has "been working mainly in tech working on building contract management systems and data privacy policy at Google, Facebook and others." He started his own consultancy, [globalreachconsulting.us](http://globalreachconsulting.us), and is working with Corestream, professional home to Adam Brothers '94, and is "looking to get off the hamster wheel. More seriously, I am starting a foundation (Upstream Color) to help get kids who have the ability to go to Columbia" but face costs not covered by financial aid — "laptops, meals when cafeterias are closed on holidays, etc.," Jason says. "I am not ready for prime time and still waiting for my nonprofit paperwork to come through, but a decent number of classmates know about it and are willing to help," Jason writes.

Enjoy your winter, classmates, and please take a moment to send in a Class Note!



Friends from CC'91 and BC'91 gathered for 50th birthday celebrations in Truro, Mass. Left to right, standing: Tanya Weisman '91, Angela Eaton '91, Tom Nishioka '91, Noah Elkin '91, Sara Ivry BC'91, Catherine Geanuracos '91, Rachel Porter '91 and Justin Lundgren '91; and left to right, kneeling and seated: Kif Scheuer '91, Katie Sellers Rosenblum '91, Alice Vosmek '91, Marc Rosenblum '91, David Tepper '91 and Karl Meyer '91.





## 1993

**Betsy Gomperz**  
betsy.gomperz@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates. I wanted to share the great news that **Seth Pinsky** has been appointed chief executive of the 92nd Street Y and will begin his position in January. 92Y plans to embark on an extensive update to its buildings to make more space for its expansive slate of programming; it is known for hosting concerts and lectures with high-profile public figures, language and music classes, and its nursery school.

While Seth has been in the private sector the last several years, he previously served in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration as the president of the New York City Economic Development Corp., a role he took on just before the 2008 financial crisis hit.

Congratulations, Seth!

Please submit updates — the more I hear from you, the longer the columns will be!

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
lak6@columbia.edu

**Jennifer Khouri** writes that two years ago she and her family moved back to New York from California. While a family graduation in California prevented her from attending our reunion this past summer, she did have a reunion of sorts in the ladies' room at JFK: "As I was washing my hands, **Mary Killackey** called my name! She was just about to board a flight home and I had just landed from LAX. I met her lovely daughter, Charlotte, and introduced them to my little girl, Sofia (4). Mary's flight was getting ready to leave, so the encounter probably lasted all of three minutes, but I was grateful for even that tiny taste of Reunion 2019!"

Jennifer continues, "As for me and my family, we are back in Garden City, N.Y., and my husband, Andy, and I work for Lockheed Martin in Uniondale and are grateful for our five-minute commute. Our son Aidan (10) attends the same school Andy attended as a child, and both kids are looking forward to winter — snow is still a

novelty. My stepson, Tucker, decided to move here to attend college, so we've got a fairly full house. I hope I'll be free for the next reunion!"

In other news, **Rachel DeWoskin**'s latest book, *Banshee*, came out this past summer, and she's been busy doing readings and interviews about what *Publishers Weekly* calls her "slow-burning, satisfying fifth novel," about the psychological effects of a life-changing diagnosis.

**Imara Jones** has been named a 2019 Soros Equality Fellow. The program supports innovators — from artists to advocates, lawyers to organizers — whose work tackles systemic racial disparities and discrimination and advances racial justice and equality across the country. Imara will continue to develop TransLash, her cross-platform storytelling effort centering on the humanity and perspectives of trans people of color.

That's it for this time! Please keep sending updates — we'd love to know what you're up to!

## 1995

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6  
Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu  
Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Janet Lorin**  
jrf10@columbia.edu

Thanks to everyone who shared updates as we close in on our 25th reunion. If you are interested in helping with the reunion or have questions or suggestions, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

**Michael Fein** writes that after working for more than 15 years in the classroom as a history professor and writing about the politics of American highways, he's spent the past several years in higher education administration at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. This summer, he took on the position of dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at JWU, where he supports 85 faculty members and more than 1,300 students enrolled in more than 20 undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs.

"Recently, we've launched many undergraduate programs and opened up cutting-edge science labs, a

criminalistics lab and a center for media production on the Providence campus," he writes. "While it is strange to think that I've been getting ready for the start of the school year for more than 40 years, I'm always happy to reflect on my time as an undergraduate as I welcome first-year students and think about the transformative years that are ahead of them."

**Mike** lives in Westwood, Mass., with his wife, Marjorie Feld, who is a professor of history at Babson College, and their sons, Izzy Feinfeld (14) and Nate Feinfeld (12).

**Thaddeus Tracy** and his wife, Michele Haberland BC'94, have twin boys who are 13. They live near campus and regularly attend Columbia basketball games. Thaddeus recently launched an investment startup focused on specialty crop and sustainable agriculture, capitalizing scalable and difficult-to-replicate operations that can be integrated into food company supply chains.

**Jed Weiner** is a partner in a boutique NYC law firm. He helps companies and entrepreneurs raise money and provides advice on company sales and purchases. Jed lives in Potomac, Md., with his wife and two daughters and works in his NYC office two weeks a month. His oldest daughter is in kindergarten and his youngest daughter is in preschool. Jed is no longer active in the Navy, where he served as an intelligence officer. He says he would enjoy meeting up with Columbia alumni in NYC or D.C.

Congratulations to **David Webber** on the success of his 2018 book, *The Rise of the Working-Class Shareholder: Labor's Last Best Weapon*. Ideas in it are expected to be introduced in congressional legislation. David recently became associate dean for intellectual life at Boston University School of Law, where he teaches.

## 1996

**Ana S. Salper**  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Greetings, classmates! **Ian Lendler** has published a new book, *The First Dinosaur: How Science Solved the Greatest Mystery on Earth*. This is his ninth book, but it is an entirely new genre. It is a nonfiction history of how humans discovered dinosaurs and is

for grades 6 and up. Kirkus Reviews describes it as, "An outstanding case study in how science is actually done: funny, nuanced, and perceptive."

*New York Times* reporters **Jodi Kantor** and **Megan Twohey** also recently published a book, *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement*, which describes how they broke the Harvey Weinstein story and details the investigative work that earned them the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service and helped ignite the #MeToo national movement. [Editor's note: See "Columbia Forum."]

In other Pulitzer news, as reported in the Summer 2019 issue of *CCT*, **Harriet Ryan**, who wrote for *Spectator* while at Columbia, received the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting for "reporting on a University of Southern California gynecologist accused of violating hundreds of young women for more than a quarter-century." According to the *Los Angeles Times*, "The reporters worked three months to track down people who had information about [Dr. George] Tyndall, uncovering troubling allegations of abuse of young patients. The series roiled the prestigious private university ... and led to dramatic changes, including the resignation of the university President C.L. Max Nikias."

Congratulations, Harriet!

I had a nice chance encounter with **Nick Kukrika** at a farmers market in the Hamptons this past summer, and he provided me with a good amount of news. Nick and his wife, **Andrea Lally**, have two kids (Theo, 2, and Maria, 6) and live in London. They try to spend much of their summers out on Long Island, near Andrea's parents. Nick works with Generation Investment Management, where he is a partner investing in tech companies. He is an avid supporter of the Democratic Party and has been working to expand the community of Democrats in the United Kingdom.

On a recent trip to NYC, Nick spent time with **Mark Levine** and **Darren Seirer**. He writes, "As a sign that bipartisanship remains the remotest of possibilities, we three have remained close friends. Mark works at BlackRock; I would argue that he is attempting to create another financial crisis, but he would say he is trading mortgage-backed securities. Darren is with Select



Equity Group, which he joined as an intern while at Columbia! [Some might] appreciate that he found it in the internship 'book' at the Center for Career Education. I suspect only Darren was patient enough to get to the letter 'S' in the book and that's why he got the gig."

Nick shared that **Stephane Gruffat** is also in London, working at Credit Suisse. He has two sons, Alexandre and Jack.

**Moha Desai** lives with her sons, Devraj (11) and Vikram (6), in her hometown, 15 minutes outside of Boston. Moha writes that she is gratified to be managing her own healthcare consulting practice, which she began in 2015 after 16 years of working in big firms. She says she enjoys the flexibility of

## 1997

**Kerensa Harrell**  
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope you enjoyed a lovely fall season. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

**Orli Shaham** writes: "I'm a concert pianist and a recent member of the faculty at The Juilliard School. I recently released my 11th CD: piano concertos by Mozart with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. One of my favorite parts of the recording process was a conversation about the pieces with my husband, conductor David Robertson, and my CC music professor Elaine Sisman! During

**Allison Jaffin** writes: "My husband, **Seth Unger**, and I are the presidents of the 'Tony Roach Fan Club,' and during the last year we have toured the country to see **Tony Roach** in his various starring roles. Our most recent run started last fall, when we saw him as Henry Higgins in Lincoln Center's production of *My Fair Lady* and culminated this past summer when he starred in the Aspen Theater Festival productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* (as the dentist) and *Guys and Dolls* (as Sky Masterson).

"During the day, Seth is the producer of the Food Film Festival, an event where you literally taste what you see on the screen. The festival was in NYC this fall and will be in Tokyo this spring, among other places. We have twin daughters who are 12 and are next in line to chair the Tony Roach Fan Club."

**Edward "Ted" Wladis** writes: "I was recently named professor and chair of the Lions Eye Institute, ophthalmology department, at Albany Medical College. In addition to being chair, I oversee the fellowship in oculo-facial and orbital plastic surgery, I perform basic science research and I am the CEO of Praxis Biotechnology. I was honored to recently have been inducted into the American Ophthalmological Society. My wife, Lianne Pinchuk LAW'00, and I have two daughters, ages 8 and 11."

**Endre Tvinnereim** writes: "In April I started a job as associate professor of political science at the University of Bergen, Norway."

**Rebekah Gee** writes, "Our twins started first grade this year and they love to dress up, just like their mother."

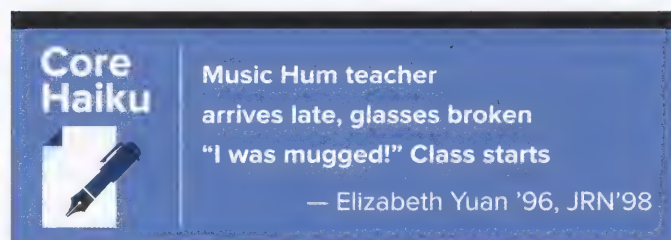
As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, as I sit here wrapping up this column in mid-September, I am thinking about how glad I am to be doing yoga again after not having done it for so many years. It certainly isn't easy getting back into it, but I am starting to slowly feel my body reconnecting. Aside from practicing yoga, I have been doing some gardening on my balcony. My daughter, Amara (3), is enjoying doing yoga and gardening alongside me! We have a lovely corner balcony that overlooks a pond with a big water fountain that is always flowing. Our balcony doesn't get any direct sun until the afternoon (which in Florida is perfect, as it is quite hot here), so we find it pleas-

ant to garden in the mornings. My grandmother Marie's lovely caladium plants, which I inherited from her garden after she passed away several years ago, are thriving. And I have a bunch of morning glory vines, with their big blue flowers that bloom each morning, climbing up the balcony rails.

As I sign off now, let me leave you with my daughter's current favorite song, "Let It Go." She likes to sing it at the top of her lungs as she dances around improvisationally, while I follow her around attempting to shield her from crashing into the furniture. It's a favorite among little girls, and is sung by Queen Elsa in the movie *Frozen*:

"Let it go  
The cold never bothered me anyway  
Let it go, let it go  
And I'll rise like the break of dawn  
Let it go, let it go  
That perfect girl is gone  
Here I stand in the light of day  
Let the storm rage on!"

Blessings to all, and please do send me your updates. Keep in mind that your updates needn't be just about the usual topics like career/marriage/birth announcements — they could also be on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings, your flowery reminiscences .... Or simply tell us about some delightful local event that you just attended or a family vacation that you went on. If nothing else, you can always write us merely to



her own practice while staying on the forefront of topics that mean the most to her. Moha invites any CC'96ers to look her up if you find yourselves in the Boston area.

**Maurice "Mo" Toueg** is president and CEO of GOBU Associates, an executive recruiting firm that he founded after having spent 20 years at one place. His firm focuses on recruiting for corporate strategy, corporate development, finance (CFOs and heads), investment banking and treasury for Fortune 500 companies, startups, portfolio companies of private equity firms and venture capital firms. Mo writes, "Still living on East 79th, a block away from where I grew up — still can't drive, but spend winters in Florida, where Uber makes a fortune off of me."

I would like to hear from more of you; please send in more news! I leave you with this:

"I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire."

— **Greta Thunberg**, 16-year-old Swedish environmental activist

the past two years, I've commemorated the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein, playing his *Symphony No. 2: The Age of Anxiety* with orchestras around the world. This fall, for the second year in a row, I am a guest host of the classical music program *From the Top*, which airs on more than 200 public radio stations across the country. I live in Manhattan with my husband; 12-year-old twins, Nathan and Alex; and Dachshund, Milo, and ran into **Julie Foont** around the corner!"

**Swati Khurana** writes: "In addition to having 21 years of teaching history at Advantage Testing, I am chugging away on my first novel (a New York Foundation for the Arts award in fiction was recent encouragement!). I have also been on a path that started with coming out as a post-Hindu witch in *Teen Vogue* and doing Tarot card readings with custom affirmations for boutique hotels, private equity client groups, literary festivals, mom groups and nonprofit retreats. The highlight of my life has been watching my 8-year-old daughter do aerial dance and gymnastics, observing how a child can actually do the things of a superhero."



Tony Roach '97 (left) autographed Seth Unger '97's chest at the Lincoln Center's production of *My Fair Lady*.





In late June, members of CC'01 and SEAS'01 met in Vail for a weekend of fun. Left to right: Becca Bradley (née Siegel) '01, Jaime Pannone '01, Emily Stanton (née Georgitis) SEAS'01, Jessica O'Sullivan (née Tubridy) '01, Anne-Marie Ebner '01, Ali Kidd '01 and Jennifer O'Connell (née Tubridy) '01.

say hello! It would be splendid to hear from as many of our classmates as possible. I look forward to hearing from you all. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

he and his wife are happily raising their children, ages 15, 13 and 11.

Have a wonderful winter, and please take a moment to send in a Class Note!

## 1998

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Greetings, Class of 1998! A few short updates for you this issue:

Congratulations are in order for **Lori Meeks** and her husband, Jason Webb, who welcomed a second child, Penelope Ann Webb, in August 2018. Brother Jupiter is 4. Lori and her family live in Los Angeles, where she's an associate professor of religion and East Asian languages and cultures at USC.

Speaking of East Asian languages, **Taylor Ortiz** shares that his and his wife **Veronica Lei's** two sons started kindergarten and third grade at their Mandarin immersion school in Indianapolis this past fall. "Future East Asian studies majors," he says.

**Dennis Machado** writes with some good news about **Elliot Han**, who won a combined half marathon/5K in San Francisco in September. Elliot placed first with a time of 1:53:12 at The Giant Race 2019 in San Francisco. As for Dennis,

## 1999

**Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson**  
adieliz@gmail.com  
jennajohnson@gmail.com

No news this time, so please take a moment to send us a note! You can share your news by sending it to either of the email addresses at the top of this column. Your classmates would love to hear from you!

## 2000

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Prisca Bae**  
pb134@columbia.edu

It's almost a new year, so why not make a resolution to send in a Class Note? Let us know about new jobs,

family life, cool trips and/or interesting hobbies — this is your space to stay connected with classmates! And don't forget, our 20th reunion will be here before we know it, so mark your calendars now for Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6.

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
jrg53@columbia.edu

In late June, **Becca Bradley** (née Siegel), **Ali Kidd**, **Emily Stanton** SEAS'01 (née Georgitis), **Jaime Pannone**, **Jessica O'Sullivan** (née Tubridy), **Jennifer O'Connell** (née Tubridy) and **Anne-Marie Ebner** gathered in Vail for a relaxing weekend of good food, beautiful vistas and celebrating a certain milestone birthday and 20-plus years of friendship. Ali and Jaime arrived from California, Emily from Colorado and Becca from Nashville, and the rest of the crew arrived from the NYC area.

Becca writes, "It was truly a gift to spend time with these amazing ladies and reconnect, especially since we now reside all over the country.

and enjoyed spending time with Annie and Dina in New York.

**Dina Epstein** and her family had an epic trip to Israel to celebrate her 40th birthday and 10th wedding anniversary — the photos were incredible. Our family had gone a week or two before and we managed to compare notes, seemingly in real time, about must-sees with our kids. What a summer!

When I returned from Israel, I had my own mini-Columbia reunion in my neighborhood. My former roommate **Adam Sokol** moved into a house down the block with his wife, Bingyi, and kids, Arro (6) and Leo (3). **Jasper Cooper** was in town visiting with his wife, Josie, and kids, Vali (6), Zed (3) and Ozzie (1). We met up for pancakes with our kids at the neighborhood diner. Adam is an accomplished architect with his own practice in downtown Los Angeles. He was recently selected by *Architectural Digest* as one of its "100 Most Influential Architects and Interior Designers in China 2019." Jasper is an insurance industry analyst at Moody's and also runs a real estate empire (my words, not his!)

### Core Haiku



Woolf, Hurston — without  
them how would I have found rush  
of human feeling?

— Jonas LaMattery-Brownell '98

We enjoyed gondola rides, strolled through an art fair and craft beer festival, and kept our eyes peeled for moose (though we didn't see a moose, we did spot a marmot on the way up the mountain). We hope to make these gatherings annual or semi-annual events. We even had matching hats."

Speaking of reunions, seven members of our class reunited 20 years after sharing a Ruggles suite sophomore year. **Annie Lainer Marquit**, **Dina Epstein**, **Nancy Perla**, **Joe Rezek**, **Billy Kingsland**, **Eri Kaneko** and **Susan Pereira Wilsey** met up in Manhattan in May for dinner and drinks and reminisced while looking through photos of their Columbia life. My wife, Jamie Rubin BC'01, was a peripheral guest

throughout Brooklyn and Queens.

**Ethan Perlstein** announced the birth of his son, Lucian Dana Perlstein (aka Luca) on August 29, weighing in at 6 lbs., 7 oz. Congratulations to Ethan and his wife!

So many of our classmates are celebrating milestone birthdays (and births!) this year, and I was thrilled to attend one such celebration in September. **Annie Lainer Marquit** invited several friends to an elegant evening of dinner and games to ring in her 40th year. It was a gorgeous evening, with every detail attended to.

Please let me know how you celebrated your 40th birthday or share information about your "reunion" with CC alumni friends.

Be in touch! It's always great to hear from all of you.



## 2002

**Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
soniah57@gmail.com

Hope everyone had a great fall! Many exciting updates to share; please keep them coming to soniah57@gmail.com.

Cut+Run's **Robert Ryang** has been awarded the Sports Emmy in the Outstanding Editing category for the short film *Zion*.

**Agnia Grigas** (née Baranaukaitė) is moving back to Santa Monica/Los Angeles with her husband, Paulius, and their two kids. She looks forward to reconnecting with Columbia alumni.

**Sara Goldfarb-Langmead SEAS'02** reports that a group of classmates got together over Memorial Day weekend to catch up and meet each other's families. Gathered at the Westchester, N.Y., home of **Jaime Snider LAW'08** were Sara; Ben Langmead '03; **Rachel Forster Held**; Steve Steer SEAS'00, SEAS'02; **Carina Schoenberger**; John Morris '03; **Michael Kalnicki SEAS'02**; Sheera Hopkins BC'06, BUS'14; and members of the Classes of 2032–41.

**Jill Santopolo '03** married Andrew Claster on June 30 at Guastavino's in New York City. In attendance were Namrata Tripathi '01, **Greg Shill**, Rebecca Bloom '03, Eleanor Coufos '03 and Kimberly Grant '03.

## 2003

**Michael Novielli**  
mjn29@columbia.edu

I was recently back on campus for the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) Alumni Leaders Weekend, so I had a chance to enjoy a bit of fall weather in New York City. I moved to Singapore five years ago and have become accustomed to four seasons of summer. On the topic of Singapore, I'm fortunate to have been elected president of CAA Singapore earlier this year, and I enjoy catching up with many of you as you travel through Singapore. Just this evening we had a CAA Singapore board games night; **Shaun Ting**, Frederick Cheng SEAS'04 and Chris Cheng SEAS'06 were there. Now, on to some updates from other parts of the world!

**Raquel Gardner** writes, "In February 2019, Jonathan and I welcomed twin boys, Betzalel and Zev, into our now rather large family! Big siblings Azaria, Reva and Margalit are quite smitten and already planning escapades together including a sibling basketball team and piano quintet. I am now proud to say that Nancy Pelosi and I have three things in common as working (number 1) San Francisco (number 2) moms of five (number 3)."

**Jonathan Goldstein** writes, "I'm back in New York City after a long stint in Tel Aviv operating tours in

Israel, Central Europe and right here in NYC under the label Cicerone Travel. When I'm not traveling for work, I spend my time in Brooklyn with my partner and baby."

**Thomas E. Anderson II** shares, "I am taking a class on global leadership and recommend the book *Cultural Agility: Building a Pipeline of Successful Global Professionals*, by Paula Caligiuri."

**Emily Hazlett** (née Doyle) writes, "I have been working the academic circuit for a long time now. I teach online classes in human development for Penn State (World Campus) and I teach in the psychology departments at Carleton College and St. Olaf College, both conveniently located in Northfield, Minn., where I live with my husband and two kids. I've learned to love the Minnesota winters and even play on a curling team called Sweeping Beauties."

**Sheila Dvorak** writes, "On August 17, I released my debut album: *Sheila Dee Has To Be Real*, which is now available everywhere, including iTunes, Amazon Music and Spotify. If you're old-fashioned like me, you can buy the CD at sheiladeemusic.com. I love writing music and fronting the band, and often bring my two children to my concerts in the Hudson Valley. A feature documentary film I produced and co-edited, *Gone Postal*, premiered at the East NorthEast International Film Festival in Newburgh, N.Y., in October."

*The Atlantic* shared: "Yoni Appelbaum will oversee a dramatic expansion of the Ideas desk. Nearly a year ago, *The Atlantic* introduced Ideas, which has gone toe-to-toe with the country's top opinion pages by offering sharp perspectives, essays, and arguments that drive the national conversation. Under Appelbaum's leadership, Ideas has quickly become a home for some of the top writing talent in the world — led by Atlantic staff writers, with contributions from elected officials and leaders shaping every industry — and a must-read for millions of readers. The section has delivered such tone-setting arguments as Adam Serwer's 'The Cruelty Is the Point,' Caitlin Flanagan's 'They Had It Coming,' Rep. John Dingell's 'I Served in Congress Longer Than Anyone. Here's How to Fix It,' Sen. Marco Rubio's 'America Needs to Restore Dignity of Work' and Deborah Copaken's 'My Rapist Apologized.'"

**Susan Nwankpa Gillespie** writes, "My husband and I had a beautiful baby girl on June 15: Adanna Rosemary Gillespie. We're doing well and having a great time, despite very little sleep! I'm in the third year of my business, Nwankpa Design, a Los Angeles-based architecture and interior design firm. We are doing great and have a roster of fantastic projects and clients."

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
jmahida@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Elizabeth A. Sullivan**, who was recognized on the *Forbes* "Next-Gen Best-in-State Wealth Advisors 2019" list.

That's all for this issue! Please send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you may be taking, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or the CCT Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2005

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

Happy end of the year, CC'05! Don't forget that reunion is coming (Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6), so make plans to come back to campus!

From **Jeffrey Schwartz**: "I recently opened an addiction treatment center, The Addiction Recovery Evolution. I specialize in providing state-funded services for gambling addiction and treatment for drug/alcohol-use disorders. I also recently celebrated my one-year wedding anniversary."

**Jacob Shell** is an associate professor of geography and urban studies at



Classmates gathered in Westchester, N.Y., during Memorial Day weekend to catch up and meet each other's families. Pictured are Rachel Forster Held '02, Sara Goldfarb-Langmead SEAS'02, Ben Langmead '03, Jaime Snider '02, Steve Steer SEAS'00, Carina Schoenberger '02, John Morris '03, Michael Kalnicki SEAS'02, Sheera Hopkins BC'06 and members of Classes 2032–41.





Temple University, where he received tenure in 2018. In June 2019 he published his second book, *Giants of the Monsoon Forest: Living and Working with Elephants*, an ethnographic study of Burmese elephants as sustainable means of transportation.

**Rebecca Weber** and her husband, Ben Carver, welcomed daughter Eden Noa on August 30. She joins big brother Ezra. Rebecca and her family have lived in Denver since 2014, where Rebecca serves as a federal prosecutor.

From **Steven Melzer**: "Tracy Massel BC'06 and I are overjoyed to announce the birth of our daughter in August. I'm at The New School, leading strategic initiatives, and Tracy runs network operations at Oscar Health. And we've stuck around the Upper West Side, so our daughter will be visiting Low Steps (and 1020) very soon."

## 2006

**Michelle Oh Sing**  
mo2057@columbia.edu

Happy holidays, classmates! Share your stories, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by emailing me at mo2057@columbia.edu — we want to hear from you!

## 2007

**David D. Chait**  
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your exciting updates. Here is the news from classmates!

**Alison Mariella Désir** shares, "Kouri Henri Figueroa was born on July 23 at 7:09 p.m., weighing 6 lbs., 3 oz.! He will be Class of 2037!"

**Dan Wulin** and **Gaby Wulin** (née Avila-Bront) welcomed their third child in May. Her two big brothers are smitten and are ecstatic in their new roles!

**Keith Hernandez** held a ceremony for his marriage to Dunyu Gu in Monemvasia, Greece, on October 5. Despite a small gathering, with a little more than 30 attendees, Columbia was well represented by **Nick DeRosa**, **Max Talbot-Minkin** and **Jerone Hsu**. It was an international affair, with guests representing 10 countries, reflecting the places

where Keith and Dunyu have lived and worked. The ceremony was held overlooking the Rock of Monemvasia in the eastern Peloponnese on an Ancient Byzantine estate.

**Luke McGowan** has had a busy few years — moving to Vermont, welcoming a son (Augustus Blake) and launching a social impact venture fund. He now leads Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office, where he works on everything from reducing lead hazards, to building affordable housing, to developing the social and physical infrastructure of Vermont's Queen City. Luke shares, "If you're ever in the Green Mountain State, say hello!"

## 2008

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2008! Wishing you an excellent start to 2020!

**Betsy Purves** (née Remes) lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and their 2-year-old son. She recently started a job as director of development at the DC Youth Orchestra Program and is delighted to be back in the music world.

Also, check out the "Just Married!" section for a photo of Carman 8 floormates at **Ben Teitelbaum's** California wedding.

Please take a moment to send your news to the email address at the top of the column. Your classmates would love to hear from you!

## 2009

**Chantee Dempsey**  
chantee.dempsey@gmail.com

**Stephanie Chou** recently premiered her song cycle/jazz-opera, *Comfort Girl*, about the young women kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese army during WWII. It premiered at Joe's Pub at the Public in NYC to a sold-out audience, which included a group from Columbia College Women and several Columbia professors. *Comfort Girl* was commissioned by the American Composers Forum and a recorded version is forthcoming. Stephanie says that she enjoyed performing at the CC'09 10-year reunion with Michael Hardin '11.

**Annie Ma-Weaver** and **Jacob Ma-Weaver** welcomed their first child, Minerva, in April. She is named for the Etruscan goddess and is getting along nicely with her brother—who-is-a-dog, Aristotle.

Have a great end of the year and a happy start to 2020, and please take a moment to send in a note!

## 2010

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**Julia Feldberg Klein**  
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

**Asher Grodman** writes, "After grad school in San Francisco and three years of working in Los Angeles, I moved back to NYC, where I've been appearing mostly in television (*Chicago Med*, *Law & Order*, *House of Cards*, *Succession*). I have a feature film at film festivals right now, *Inez & Doug & Kira*, and I'm teaching acting at Hunter College and to inmates at Rikers Island.

"I've started a weekly pick-up football game in Hell's Kitchen. If you want to relive memories of playing on the greens — without the hassle of getting kicked off by Facilities — message me on social media @ashergrodman. Would be great to see familiar faces."

**Sarah Suria** and **Ahmed Suria** BUS'15 welcomed Harlan "Hardy" Braidy Suria into their family on June 7.

**Gabriella M. Ripoll** shares, "A lot has happened in the last couple of months! I've had a job transition, from being associate counsel at Delos Living to now being one of a small team of legal licensing counsel at the licensing agency Earthbound Brands. It's an exciting move that puts me in the middle of Flatiron, so other alums nearby — let's get lunch! In even more exciting news, my longtime boyfriend, Filipe Fernandes, proposed over Memorial Day weekend, and our nuptials are planned for Leap Day 2020. Miriam Manber BC'10 is, of course, one of my bridesmaids. Exciting times."

**Derek Squires** says, "I'm enjoying my honeymoon after getting

married in August. We've visited Geneva and Zermatt, Switzerland, so far. Venice and Rome are next. Traveling to Europe always inspires me to dust off some of my Lit Hum and CC books!"

**David Zheng-Li Xu** PS'15 will complete his residency in June 2020 and matched to an interventional radiology fellowship for 2020–21. He is getting married in October 2020.

**Derek Jancisin** has an article to share; read it online: [bit.ly/2nZcLEK](http://bit.ly/2nZcLEK).

**Chris Yim** writes, "In fall 2018, my wife, Grace, and I split up. It was both devastating and informative. My life was out of whack, and I had been living out of alignment in many ways — my principles and actions didn't match. As a result, I went to great lengths to destruct the seemingly stable things in my life.

"I did a lot of self-reflection about how I lost my best friend, hurt her and found myself in a place where I had no idea what to do next. I had never lost someone like this before, and I spent a lot of time angry with myself. Themes of the next few months involved self-compassion, acceptance and healing. While the breakup shined light on all this brokenness within, it also paved a way for me to heal. I'm still on that path. Some days I'm flowing and it's light. Other days, I have no idea what I'm doing, and I wonder how I got myself here. I'm realizing that that is part of the journey — you find yourself stuck at sea, throw your hands up, look at the sky and say, 'I guess I'll just keep on sailing.'"

"I learned many lessons this year. It was really humbling to have thought I knew stuff about life, then to be pushed off a mountain and find myself in a valley realizing my ego had driven me astray. I had to learn some of these lessons the hard way, and it's been painful.

"These days, I'm spending my time thinking about community. After the breakup, I felt like I needed to surround myself with people who were thinking about personal growth and wanted to have intention about how they showed up in the world. So, I started a housing community with people who were drawn to this vision of living to support one another. It's teaching me a lot about how to hold space for others. I think about what it means to support and invite others to



# Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Congratulations!



INDIGO PHOTOGRAPHY



LAUREN O'BRIEN (SILVERFOX STUDIOS)



JONATHAN WILSON







1. John Connell '76 stands next to his daughter Erin Connell '13 at her wedding on September 7 in Mount Desert, Maine. Other alumni in the photo include Erin's siblings, Brigid Connell '16 and Will Connell '19.

2. Meredith Kirk '12 and Matthew Star '12 were married in Marfa, Texas, on September 14. Left to right: Brandon Thompson '12, William Leonard '12, Vanessa Nieto SEAS'12, Jeremy Bleeke '13, Jill Goodwin BC'12, John Goodwin '12, the bride, the groom, Khalil Romain '12, Karla Casariego '12, Cody Haefner '12, Brian LaPerche '12, Emily Drinker BC'12, Tom Kapusta '12, Donia Abdelaziz '12 and Alexa Goldson '12.

3. Kimberly Flores Gaynor '16 married Eric Gaynor GS'16 on August 24 in Walworth, Wis. Left to right: Damien Chang SEAS'16, Elizabeth Combs '15, the bride, the groom, Karissa Austin '16, Kristin Austin '16 and Eugene Kim '96.

4. Derek Squires '10 married Renee Squires at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge in New York on August 17.

5. On June 15, Holli Chopra '14 married Josh Faber GS'12 and the two attended Trenton, N.J.'s Art All Night.

6. On August 25, Neal Smolar '83 and Betsy Chutter Smolar BC'85's daughter was married in Paterson, N.J., with several CC'83 and BC'83 friends in attendance. Top row, left to right: Smolar, Len Rosen '83 and Adam Bayroff '83; and bottom row, left to right: Miriam Kushner BC'83, Steve Arenson '83, Eddy Friedfeld '83 and Larry Herman '83.

7. A big CC'08 (and Carman 8!) contingent traveled to Simi Valley, Calif., in September for Ben Teitelbaum '08's wedding.

8. Chuck Roberts '12 and Tyler Badgley were married at the Congressional Club in Washington, D.C., on September 14. Back row, left to right: Nettra Pan '12, Alyson Cohen '10, Matt Chou '14, Heather Hwalek '10, Dennis Martin '10, Alexander Harstrick '12, Sudeep Moniz SEAS'10, James Rathmell '12 and Nuriel Moghavem '11; and front row, left to right: Julio Enrique Herrera Estrada SEAS'12, Badgley, Roberts, Aki Terasaki '12 and Allie Wakefield '12.

collaborate on a vision. It's far from perfect, but the relationships are really incredible.

"I've also been thinking about stories and the capacity for stories to heal. I have this belief that we're all healers, capable of healing ourselves, relationships, communities and the world. So much of how we see ourselves and the things around us is based on stories. I'm focusing on telling healing stories and hope to do this through the medium of film. Writing this, so much of my life feels uncertain at the moment; I have no idea about what the future holds for my community, my work, friends (many have left the Bay Area), love ... but it's never felt more interesting. And I'm curious.

"A friend sent me a quotation that I'll treasure for a while: 'Gratitude is not a virtue but a survival skill, and our capacity for it grows with our suffering. This is why it is the least privileged, not the most, who excel in appreciating the smallest of offerings.'"

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell**  
nurielm@gmail.com  
sean.udell@gmail.com

Howdy, 2011. We hope the winter brings you an opportunity to slow down, enjoy the holidays with your family, catch up on Netflix shows and relive the memories of cold walks back from 1020.

On to some updates! **Ben Philippe** is full-time faculty at Barnard, teaching film and TV writing within the TV department. He sold his first nonfiction collection of comedic essays, tentatively titled *Sure, I'll Be Your Black Friend*. He is teaching three courses: American drama, digital media and screenwriting.

**Amin Guevarra-Fernandez** graduated as a Dean's Scholar from New York Law School in May and sat for the New York bar exam in July. He recently celebrated his one-year wedding anniversary with Jenieve Guevarra-Fernandez '12. Amin began working with The Bronx Defenders as an immigration attorney in September.

Elsewhere in people on the right side of immigration law, **Nicole Catá** wrapped up her clerkship at the Staff Attorney's Office of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second

Circuit in August. In September, she joined the Immigration Intervention Project at Sanctuary for Families.

As a staff attorney, she helps people who have experienced gender-based violence secure and maintain lawful immigration status and obtain U.S. citizenship. In July, she caught up with **Paul Lerner**, a fellow CUMB alum, during her first trip to Montreal.

**Alex Ivey** joined Global Strategy Group in June as a senior director in its Washington, D.C., office. He's been relishing the return to Democratic electoral politics ahead of 2020 — this time as a pollster and strategist. Don't hesitate to reach out to him with any and all hot takes (just be sure to vote, as well).

**Ola Jacunski** was recently promoted to project leader at Boston Consulting Group, where she works with clients in financial services and pharma. When she's not building models or writing slides, Ola spends her time either reading stories or writing them. Her first short story was published earlier this year in the JordanCon Anthology under the pen name Alexandra Hill, alongside science fiction and fantasy greats like Brandon Sanderson and Seanan McGuire. Ola's always looking for her next great read — please reach out to share books you've loved!

Conductor, composer and loose character study **Teddy Poll** spent the summer with the inimitable and doubly named **Max Rifkind-Barron**. They worked furiously on putative queer'd history, manifesting in a new musical set in an underground drag cabaret in Paris in 1953, tentatively titled *Murder at le Coq sur le vol...* He has enjoyed Los Angeles, and remarks of the weather, "delicious!" and of the traffic, "oy!" We congratulate Teddy on submitting to us a Class Note that we can use unedited.

**Megan McCusker** bought her first house in Philadelphia and continues to run a successful coffee shop, Function Coffee Labs, with her husband, Ross Nickerson. They recently celebrated two years of marriage and three years in business! On nights and weekends, you can find Megan at weddings and corporate events working the new branch of her coffee biz — mobile coffee catering. As if running her own business weren't enough, Megan also holds a full-time day job as an accounting associate at her mother's CPA firm in Fort Washington, Pa. She is taking



CASSIDY DUHON



accounting classes to gather enough credits to get her CPA license.

**Warren McGee** had quite the eventful summer. He (finally!) finished his Ph.D. in neuroscience at Northwestern and has returned to medical school, expecting to finish his M.D. at Northwestern in 2021. He also recently got engaged to his longtime girlfriend, Kathryn Brill BC'13! They are eagerly looking forward to their wedding, as are we!

**Simone Foxman** and **Benjamin Clark** recently traded the Big Apple for the Middle East, moving halfway around the world for Simone to become Bloomberg's correspondent in Doha, Qatar. She's covering Middle East news on Bloomberg TV and will also continue to write for Bloomberg's online and print media. They were able to catch up with a few fellow alums — including Jessica McKenzie BC'11, **Brendan Hannon**, **Jeremy Sklaroff**, **Linette Lopez '08**, **Kamal Yechoor SEAS'11**, **Alyssa Lamontagne** and **Taylor Owens** — ahead of the move. Simone and Benjamin are inviting any and all to hang out with them in Doha for the World Cup in a few years. Presumably they will have air conditioning.

We also have a CC'11 baby update: On May 22 (which was, appropriately, Commencement), **Brian Keith Grimes III** was born to **Zila Acosta-Grimes** and **Brian Grimes**. We saw the baby's picture and can confirm that he has an incurable case of pediatric cuteness.

**Ben Cotton** was on his honeymoon in Tanzania, blissfully ignoring Class Notes emails.

## 2012

**Sarah Chai**  
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Hey friends, a few folks promised to submit photos for this issue, so check out "Just Married!"

Speaking of weddings, congratulations are in order for **Brian Barwick**, who married Meaghan Robson on July 13 in his hometown of Laguna Beach, Calif. **Michael Loya**, **Stephanie Foster**, **Francisco Vega SEAS'12**, **Marisa Vega** and **Allyson Werner** were in attendance.

**Gillian Rhodes** shared an update: "I've been settled in Lahore, Pakistan, for a year and a half. Among various

dance and choreography projects, I've performed as a dancer and actor in multiple music videos (see my favorite at [bit.ly/2klFHkL](http://bit.ly/2klFHkL)), and this fall I had the opportunity to do choreography for a feature film that will be released next year!"

Hope to hear from many more of you in 2020!

## 2013

**Tala Akhavan**  
talaakhavan@gmail.com

Happy end of the year, CC'13 — best wishes for an awesome start to 2020!

**Dean Kowalski** is one of 20 castaways on *Survivor: Island Of the Idols* (season 39), which premiered on September 25.

Good luck, Dean!

Please send in a note. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
rsf2121@columbia.edu

No news this time, but we wish you a happy start to 2020! Please make it a New Year's resolution to send in some news — cool trips, new jobs, fun hobbies, big life changes ... anything you want! Let's stay connected!

## 2015

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Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Kareem Carryl**  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! We are getting closer to our five-year reunion (Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6)! The Reunion Committee is hard at work to ensure it's a great experience for everyone. I cannot wait to see you all there and to learn more about what you all have been up to! In the interim, please feel free to send me any life happenings — graduations, engagements, new jobs, cool adventures — anything! Feel free to send photos, as well!

I am happy to share that I am in my first year at Harvard Law School! It has been great thus far and I'm looking forward to what the next few years will bring.

Your classmates want to hear from you. Please submit updates by writing to me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
lilukrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016, I've started following up on the nominations you're sending and am always so impressed and inspired by us as a group. Please keep them coming! By the time you see this, Homecoming will have passed, so feel free to also send me photos from that. Looking at the last few issues, these moments are to be treasured. Without further ado, updates from your classmates:

From **Richard Lee**: "I started really getting into blockchain and cryptocurrency in early 2017. A couple months later I quit my job and started Global Blockchain Innovative Capital (GBIC), a crypto fund with fellow Columbia alumni. We invest in cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, as well as early-stage blockchain projects. We also started a consulting and advisory company underneath GBIC to diversify our exposure in the industry. It's been and will continue to be a wild ride through the ups and downs, as Bitcoin has gone as high as \$20K and as low as \$3K."

From **Jackie Dubrovich**: "Since graduation, I worked full-time at a media measurement and analytics company for three years while simultaneously training and competing on the national and international fencing circuit. I made the USA National Team this season and competed at both World Fencing Championships (our team won the bronze medal!) and the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru (our team won the gold!). I finished the season ranked number 2 in the country and am training full time for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Columbia has had a rich history of fencers competing at the Summer Olympics, and I hope to continue this tradition!"

From **Jared Greene '17**, **SEAS'17**: "The past few years have honestly been pretty all over the place. Finished the 3-2 program in 2017 (so am I really CC'16?), then built robots in Brooklyn for a bit before going to Guatemala City for a year to study the internet. After that I basically did the most cliché thing I could think of and worked at a cryptocurrency startup in San Francisco for a hot minute until moving for the fourth time in two years, this time to Seattle. Now I work on Starlink at SpaceX to make the internet globally accessible, and am waiting for any excuse to get a dog."

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
carl.yin@columbia.edu

**Simon Schwartz's** startup, Locasaur, launched a platform to message with your favorite local businesses, with the goal of providing regulars with a direct channel to friendly faces at their spots and mom-and-pops with an unapologetically pro-local ally in tech. Locasaur is available in your app store and online, where you can search the user-generated database of local spots that stretches from Morningside to Japan.

**Shreyas Vissapragada** is in graduate school at Caltech studying planetary science. He's been working on a way to observe the atmospheric evolution of planets outside the solar system.

**Tolu Obikunle** launched a non-alcoholic wine company, La Mère Beverage. Products will be on sale broadly through e-commerce in January.

**Bianca Guerrero** shares, "I am still working on policy for Mayor Bill de Blasio, focusing on worker protections and climate issues. Our primary goal is working with the City Council to pass a paid personal time bill, which would guarantee two weeks of paid time off (separate from sick leave) for private sector workers. I also am meeting people (including Columbia alumni) and learning organizing skills as the lead volunteer for Elizabeth Warren in uptown Manhattan. I also help out on Jamaal Bowman's campaign to represent my old congressional district, NY-16. I was not into electoral politics at Columbia but I believe in both candidates, so I am doing what I can to help them win."





Christopher George '17 and Jonathan Kopteyev '17 were each awarded a Ferdinand C. Valentine Medical Student Research Grant in Urology; they are pictured here with the award and other winners.

"This past summer, I spent two weeks on the West Coast with two friends from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation network. We visited the Bay Area, Yosemite National Park, Seattle, North Cascades National Park and Vancouver — it was incredible. I also visited Toronto and decided that Canada is an underrated tourist destination. I snagged last-minute tickets to CNN's climate town hall and, last but certainly not least, I got to see my favorite band — the recently reunited Jonas Brothers — live for the first time. I'm excited for whatever the next season brings!"

**Chris von Pohlot** and **Justin Bleuel** co-founded a company to make renting easier.

**Ethan Wu** shares, "As time passes, it seems to move more rapidly, day by week by month by quarter. I started architecture school this past fall, gratified to be starting with a beginner's mind again, but I find as I age my life's circumstances become closer to ones I once abhorred — aging coming not from the passing of days but from the heaping of responsibility and experience."

**Elena McGahey** had a fun weekend with **Ian Covert**, **Mayank Mahajan SEAS'16**, **Harsha Vemuri**, **Sahir Jaggi SEAS'17**, **Eunice Emefa Kokor SEAS'17**, **Kanika Verma**, **Jake Kwok** and **Josh Keough**. She also started grad school this fall at UCSF and welcomes all Lions in the program to say hi!

**Christopher George** and **Jonathan Kopteyev** were awarded a Ferdinand C. Valentine Medical Student Research Grant in Urology for their summer research projects between their first and second year of medical school. Jonathan's project was titled "Assessing the Risk of Kidney Stone Formation Induced by Weight-Loss Diets" and Chris's project was titled "Quantifying the Association Between Nocturia and Cardiovascular Disease: Results from the Krimpten Study." Jonathan conducted his research at medical school (Rutgers) and Christopher conducted his at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands. They both presented their respective research findings at the New York Academy of Medicine's Medical and Dental Student Forum on September 9.

## 2018

**Alexander Birkel** and **Maleeha Chida**  
 ab4065@columbia.edu  
 mnc2122@columbia.edu

**Cristina Frias** hopes everyone is excited for the season! She could never have imagined what a year and a half in the real world could bring. Cristina has a full year of work experience in software development under her belt, which means realizing how little she actually knows, she says. She's continued to swim by joining the Asphalt Green Masters program. And she hopes she'll be volunteering at the ASPCA soon to help out with some of the dogs and cats!

This past fall, **Tiffany Troy** and her father worked together with the help of many in the community on the first case in which a man got released by ICE on an employment anti-retaliation theory. Their quest for liberty did not come easy, but they had faith and never turned their backs on the dream they carry. On top of that experience, which turned into a poem, Tiffany celebrated her birthday in style with a coinciding publication, which she wrote in Dodge Hall last spring.

Since graduating, **Shawnee Traylor** dove over more Panamanian coral reefs (thankfully, no crocodiles this time), spent a season collecting water samples (and dodging leopard seals) in Antarctica, backpacked the glacier-studded mountains of Patagonia and sailed up into Greenlandic fjords — mostly in the name of science. She is a Ph.D. student in a joint program between MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where she studies how important elements cycle between the ocean and atmosphere in the context of a changing climate.

**Sharel Liu** published an article in the architectural journal *Log* in August, "Community on Tap: The Commodification of Identity," which can be found for purchase on [anycorp.com/store/log46](http://anycorp.com/store/log46).

**Briley Lewis** is excited to be in her second year of graduate school at UCLA, even if that means she needs to start studying for her comprehensive exam. Other than research, she's been doing a lot of teaching and writing lately. Check out [astrobits.org/author/blewis](http://astrobits.org/author/blewis).

## alumni news



**Siena Bergt** has a feature film that was received into the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival.

## 2019

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**Emily Gruber**  
**Tj Aspen Givens**  
 tag2149@columbia.edu  
 eag2169@columbia.edu

An aspiring surgeon, **Hanya Qureshi** is a member of the Class of 2023 at the Yale School of Medicine. She is enjoying exploring New Haven while continuing to collaborate with the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative through her role as the founder and co-developer of the UN Ivy STEM Connect Program. Thus far, the program has impacted nearly 200 students. Hanya hopes to use her background to encourage girls globally to pursue STEM careers.

**Tre Gabriel** is preparing to go to grad school (a doctorate program in psych), while being a content specialist for a mental health company, The Flawless Foundation, and using his fifth year of eligibility to play football at his hometown school.

**Gowan Moïse** (now going by Will/William) moved to Santa Monica to start working at a boutique law firm specializing in intellectual property and complex commercial litigation. He spends his days reading case law, building damages models and chasing his roommate's French bulldog. He's still yet to go to the beach.

**Danny Hong** is pursuing an M.Sc. in innovation, entrepreneurship and management at Imperial College Business School. His master's program cohort at Imperial sees candidates representing 70 nationalities; he is one of two Americans in the program. In pursuing a master's, Danny says he looks forward to applying his Columbia background to cultivate innovative ideas with which to seek employment or to create his own company, as these are the requirements to officially achieve the master's from Imperial.

## Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!  
 What's a fun way to note it?  
 Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — you need to tell us in haiku. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu), and we'll run our favorites in the next two issues' Class Notes.



# obituaries

## 1942

**Nicholas W. Cicchetti**, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., a retired educator who earned a master's from TC; August 21, 2019.

**Abram Loft**, Amherst, Mass., a distinguished professor emeritus of chamber music; earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from GSAS, in 1944 and 1950, respectively; February 1, 2019.

## 1946

**Evarts Cecil Erickson**, Wellfleet, Mass., a retired writer; September 28, 2019.

## 1953

**Morton Freilicher**, New York City, a retired lawyer who earned a degree from the Law School in 1956; August 7, 2019.

**Benjamin P. Roosa, Jr.**, Hopewell Junction, N.Y., an attorney; August 28, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Cardinal Hayes Home for Children, P.O. Box CH, 60 St. Joseph Dr., Millbrook, NY 12545 (cardinalhayeshome.org).

**Howard R. Williams**, Bloomfield, N.J., a humanitarian aid executive and adjunct professor at SIPA; September 25, 2019.

## 1956

**Charles W. Bostic Jr.**, Morrisville, N.Y., a retired vocational rehabilitation counselor; September 28, 2019.

**David M. Nitzberg**, Lake Forest, Ill.; February 26, 2019.

## 1957

**Richard J. Cohen**, San Francisco, a retired physician; December 25, 2018. Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Beth Shalom, 301 14th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118 (bethsholomsf.org).



WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS '58 POSTCARD COLLECTION, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

**Daniel I. Davidson**, Washington, D.C., earned a degree from the Law School in 1959; September 13, 2019.

## 1958

**Alfred R. Stein**, New York City; October 15, 2019.

**Jesus A. Suarez**, Stuart, Fla., a retired engineer; earned a B.S., M.S. and C.E., all from Columbia Engineering in 1960, 1962 and 1966, respectively; August 13, 2019.

## 1960

**William H. Engler**, Princeton Junction, N.J., a retired professor of English; earned an M.A. in 1965 from GSAS; August 17, 2019. Memorial

contributions may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (nationalmssociety.org).

## 1961

**Arnold Chase**, Township of Washington, N.J., a retired attorney who earned a degree from the Law School in 1964; October 1, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to any multiple myeloma or diabetes organization.

## 1966

**Stuart M Berkman**, Rio de Janeiro, a retired licensing and marketing executive who earned a degree from the Business School in 1968; January 25, 2019.

## 1969

**Michael S. Oberman**, New York City, an attorney; October 15, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope & Heroes (hhccf.convio.net/goto/michaeloberman).

## 1982

**John S.W. Dawson**, New York City, a director of marketing; October 13, 2019.

## 1991

**Patrick H. Flynn**, Wilmette, Ill., a co-portfolio manager of a high-yield strategies fund; April 23, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to SitStayRead (sitstayread.org).

### OBITUARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*Columbia College Today* welcomes obituary information for Columbia College alumni. Links or mailing addresses for memorial contributions may be included. Please fill out the "Submit Obituary Information" form at [college.columbia.edu/cct/content/contact-us](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/content/contact-us), or mail information to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10025.





## Immanuel M. Wallerstein '51, GSAS'59, Sociologist and Prolific Author

**Immanuel M. Wallerstein '51, GSAS'59**, a sociologist who transformed the field with his ideas about Western domination of the modern world and the very nature of sociological inquiry, died on August 31, 2019, at his home in Branford, Conn. He was 88.

Wallerstein was born to German parents on September 28, 1930, in Manhattan and grew up in the Bronx. He served in the Army 1951–53, and earned a master's in 1954 from GSAS. In 1955, the Ford Foundation awarded him a fellowship that allowed him to study in Africa; he continued to travel the continent after earning a Ph.D. in 1959, also from GSAS, and joining the Columbia faculty. Wallerstein wrote two books on Africa in the 1960s: *Africa: The Politics of Independence* and *Africa: The Politics of Unity*.

During Columbia's Spring 1968 uprising, he was part of a faculty committee that sought to mediate the situation. Based on those experiences, as well as other events in that tumultuous year, Wallerstein



wrote *University in Turmoil: The Politics of Change*, published in 1969. In 1971 he moved to Montreal to teach at McGill University, and then in 1976 became distinguished professor of sociology at SUNY Binghamton. He had been a senior research fellow at Yale University since 2000.

Wallerstein's doctrine of the world-system became an influential theory in the field. In 1974 he published *The Modern World-System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the*

*Sixteenth Century*, the first of four volumes that took a broader sociological approach than was common at the time, favoring a global view that encompassed history and economic evolution.

World-systems analysis, as Wallerstein called his approach, occupied only a modest part of his scholarship. A 2011 book of essays on the impact of Wallerstein's work, *Immanuel Wallerstein and the Problem of the World*, considered Africa's influence on his thinking. "I had the gut feeling in the 1950s," he wrote in *The Essential Wallerstein* (2000), "that the most important thing that was happening in the 20th-century world was the struggle to overcome the control by the Western world of the rest of the world."

Wallerstein produced numerous other books, and also wrote on current events; in 2014 he delivered a lecture to more than 1,000 students in Iran, where his writings have been widely read.

A theme of activism ran through Wallerstein's career and his writings. "I have argued that world-systems analysis is not a theory but a protest against neglected issues and deceptive epistemologies," he wrote. He argued that no world-system lasts forever and that the current one is slowly disintegrating. For years he elaborated on these and other ideas on his website ([iwallerstein.com](http://iwallerstein.com)). On July 1, 2019, he announced that day's post was the 500th and last. He concluded by pondering the future, and whether the global change he predicted would come to pass: "I think there is a 50-50 chance that we'll make it to transformatory change, but only 50-50."

Wallerstein married Beatrice Friedman in 1964. In addition to her and his daughter, Katharine, he is survived by two children from his wife's previous marriage, Susan Morgenstern and Robert Morgenstern, and five grandchildren.

## John Giorno '58, Poet and Poetry Advocate, and Artists' Muse

**John Giorno '58**, who employed art and mass media to embed poetry more deeply in the fabric of everyday life, died on October 11, 2019, at his home in Lower Manhattan. He was 82.

"Possessed of Greco-Roman good looks and a gregarious, benevolent spirit," according to his *New York Times* obituary, Giorno played an important role early in his life as a muse to and lover of other artists, among them Robert Rauschenberg and Andy Warhol.



Born on December 4, 1936, Giorno grew up in Brooklyn and Roslyn Heights, N.Y. He graduated from James Madison H.S. and to the end of his life spoke of the importance of the English teachers he encountered there. After the College, during a brief stint as a stockbroker, Giorno began to befriend artists and poets like Warhol and Ted Berrigan and filmmaker Jonas Mekas.

Giorno and Warhol were living together off and on when Warhol came up with the idea of filming Giorno asleep, naked. Warhol created his seminal 1963 film *Sleep* by focusing a mostly static camera on Giorno for more than five hours. Though the couple split in 1964, the movie — among the first footage Warhol shot and now considered an underground classic — linked them indelibly in postwar art history. But Giorno's lasting contribution to art came through his restless experimentations with the political potential of poetry, which he felt had been unjustly overshadowed by other genres of expression.

In 1965, Giorno founded the nonprofit Giorno Poetry Systems to promote his work and that of his peers. Four years later, inspired by a call with William S. Burroughs, he started Dial-A-Poem, a rudimentary mass-communication system for cutting-edge poets and political oratory. Reachable around the clock for anyone with a few minutes and a desire to be read to, millions of people called in. At a time when the art world and culture at large were still largely conservative, Dial-A-Poem was often unabashedly homoerotic.

Giorno's own artwork drew heavily from the ideas of the found imagery that fueled the Pop revolution and also from the tradition of the ready-made — plain, found objects presented as art. Giorno mined news items and presented them virtually untouched as verse, as in his privately circulated 1964 collection *The American Book of the Dead*.

By 1962 Giorno had moved into a hulking Queen Anne-style building on the Bowery that had been built as the first YMCA and that then had a second life as a warren of studios for artists. He eventually occupied three spaces there, one of which was nicknamed "the Bunker" by Burroughs. For more than three decades, Giorno, a longtime practicing Buddhist, hosted annual gatherings in the building for hundreds of Tibetan Buddhist adherents.

Over several decades, Giorno Poetry Systems produced dozens of albums, videos and events of the work of Giorno and other writers, musicians and artists. In 1984 the foundation started the AIDS Treatment Project, which disbursed hundreds of thousands of dollars.

At the time of his death Giorno had been finishing a memoir, *Great Demon Kings: A Memoir of Poetry, Sex, Art, Death, and Enlightenment*, scheduled to be published next June.

Giorno is survived by his husband, Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone, who in summer 2017 produced the NYC exhibition *Ugo Rondinone: I ♥ John Giorno*, a sprawling, multi-part exhibition that presented, at 13 venues, Giorno's life and work, as well as work that he inspired.





## CORE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

In honor of the Centennial, we asked four artistic alums to take inspiration from the Core and provide a cartoon in need of a caption — one for each of our four issues this academic year.

This installment is by editorial cartoonist R.J. Matson '85.

The winning caption will be published in the Spring 2020 issue, and the winner will get a signed print of Matson's cartoon. Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu) by Monday, February 10. And be sure to check out the Fall issue's winning caption on our Contents page.



"Thanks to generous alumni support, Columbia College provided me with funding to take an internship with a nonprofit media company that gives voice to at-risk children. This enabled me to explore my passions and expand my outlook for the future."

— Deanna Cuadra CC'21, Shine Global



Core to Commencement is proud of the **Work Exemption Program**, part of Columbia University's enhanced financial aid program for students. Generous funding from alumni and parents provides qualified financial aid recipients expanded support to pursue meaningful unpaid or low-paid internships, research projects and community outreach work that helps them experience greater possibilities.

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TO HER HOMETOWN


BRIAN DE PALMA '62

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WRITES HIS FIRST NOVEL

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cornerstone** of  
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engagement.

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti CC'12

Photo by Tammy Shell

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*By the Editors of CCT*



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*By Jill C. Shomer*



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## "Range" and Higher Education

Almost two decades after Lit Hum, a student and  
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*By Jill C. Shomer*

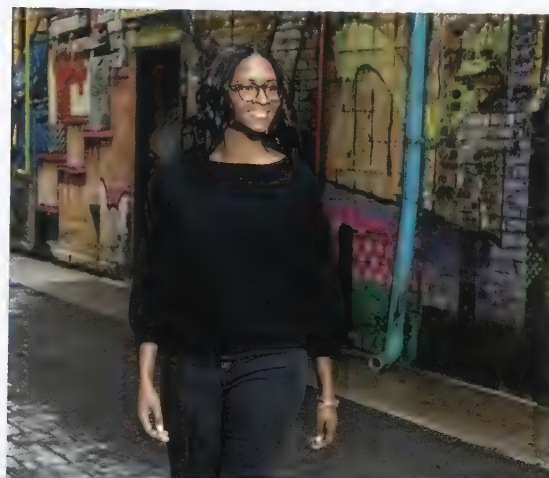


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*By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09*





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His first novel.

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### PRINT EXTRAS

- Book excerpt from Monique W. Morris '94, GSAPP'96
- Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55's video reflection



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Our Core Centennial cartoon caption contest continues  
with an illustration by Dr. Ben Schwartz '03, PS'08.



R.J. MATSON '85

*"French vanilla chia seeds at Jf's Place!  
We're not in Athens anymore, P."*

The winner of our second Core Centennial cartoon caption contest is Tom McNamee '99! Thank you for all your submissions. This issue's cartoon is on page 88.





## Within the Family

# On the Centennial Beat

**W**e've crossed the midway point in *CCT*'s year of Core Centennial coverage. On the feature front, we've spoken with the University's president about the enduring importance of the Core, and done a deep dive into the origins of Contemporary Civilization, the curriculum's inaugural course, launched in 1919. When considering our next big piece, it seemed like high time to go to the faculty members themselves, and to ask for their perspective on what it's like to teach the College's signature classes.

Of course, this was in December; the professors were busy, in the midst of grading end-of-semester papers and preparing for final exams. But they graciously took time out for some thoughtful conversation. Faced with our icebreaker about how long they'd been teaching the Core, more than one confessed to being nervous when they started. But all have been teaching the curriculum for years, and some for decades.

They've stayed with it because teaching the Core is energizing and challenging, because it connects them to something greater than themselves, because of the students and because of the opportunity to impart something lasting — an expansion of worldview; an introduction to the basic questions of human existence; the tools for a lifelong appreciation of art, music and literature.

The enduring influence of professor on student can be seen more directly in our roundtable with writer David Epstein '02, JRN'04, GSAS'04 and Julie Crawford, the Mark Van Doren Professor of the Humanities and former chair of Literature Humanities. The two met in the Lit Hum seminar room almost two decades ago, and we got them together again to talk about Epstein's latest book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*. The resulting conversation, which originally appeared in our website's "Like Minds" department, discusses fast versus slow learning, and how embracing a liberal arts education might pay dividends over a quick commitment to a particular path.

Elsewhere in the issue, we interview *TIME* videographer Francesca Trianni '11, JRN'13, who recently made her directorial debut with the documentary *Paradise Without People*. The film, which sold out at DOC NYC 2019, offers a window onto the Syrian refugee crisis through the eyes of two women who have just given birth. We also learned how Nia Batts '07 is bringing an impressive one-two punch of innovation and community impact to her hometown of Detroit: Her salon, Detroit Blows, has broken new ground with its all-inclusive approach to hairstyling, with a portion of sales going to support local projects by female entrepreneurs.



*CCT* is breaking a little new ground ourselves — we're thrilled to be hosting our first event, an evening with famed film director Brian De Palma '62, here on the Columbia campus on Thursday, March 26 ([college.columbia.edu/alumni/events](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/events)). The talk celebrates De Palma's debut novel, *Are Snakes Necessary?*, excerpted on page 34. The twisty, noirish book marks an apt next step for a man who's made his career as a master of suspense. De Palma will be joined on the 26th by his co-author, former *New York Times* editor Susan Lehman; School of the Arts film professor Annette Insdorf will moderate.

We hope to see you there!

Meanwhile, if you haven't yet submitted a Core haiku, there's still time. And the latest installment in our Core Centennial cartoon caption contest series can be found on the back page. Submissions for both of them can be sent to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu).

We're also putting out a call for readers to show us their LGBTQIA+ pride. Send your hi-res digital photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu) (at least one person in the photo must be a College alum). We plan to run a selection of favorites in the Summer 2020 issue — the first of what we hope will be many "billboards" showing different sides of our vibrant Lions community.

Spring Forward!

*Alexis Bonney*

Alexis Bonney SOA'11  
Editor-in-Chief

Featuring the Core: This issue, we highlight faculty voices.



# MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Honoring the Core composers  
we've listened to,  
learned from and loved.



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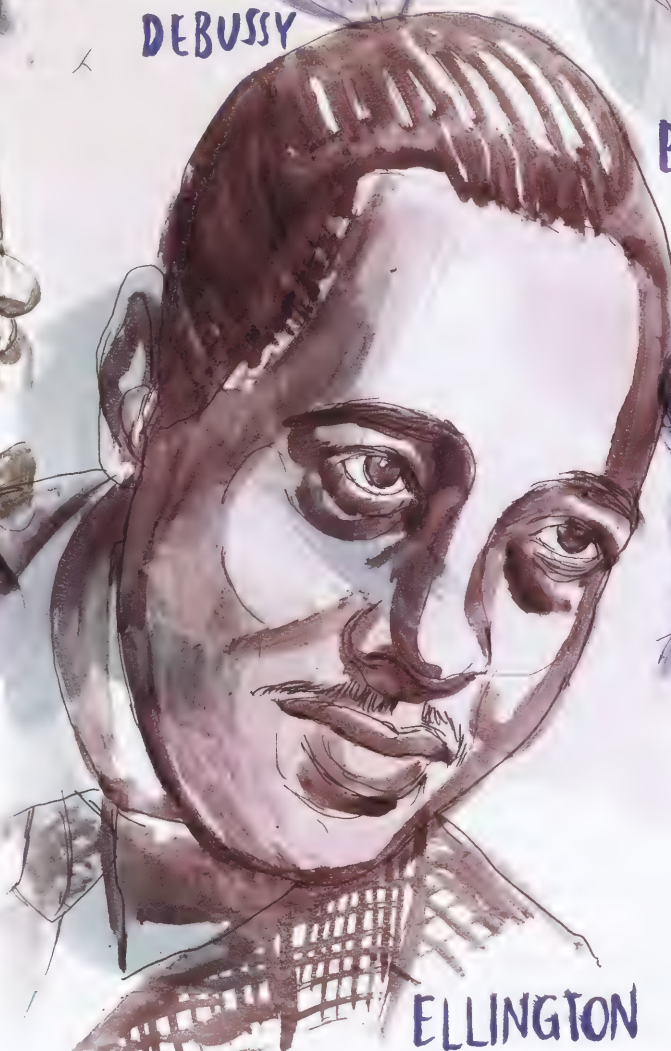
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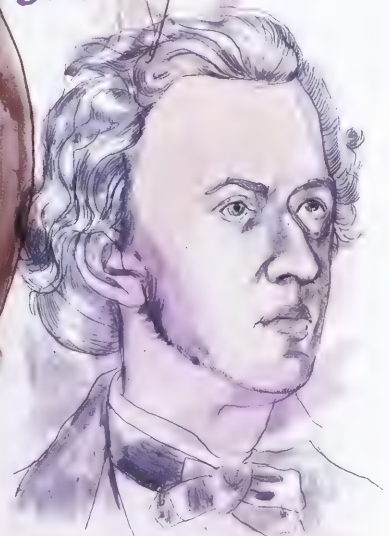
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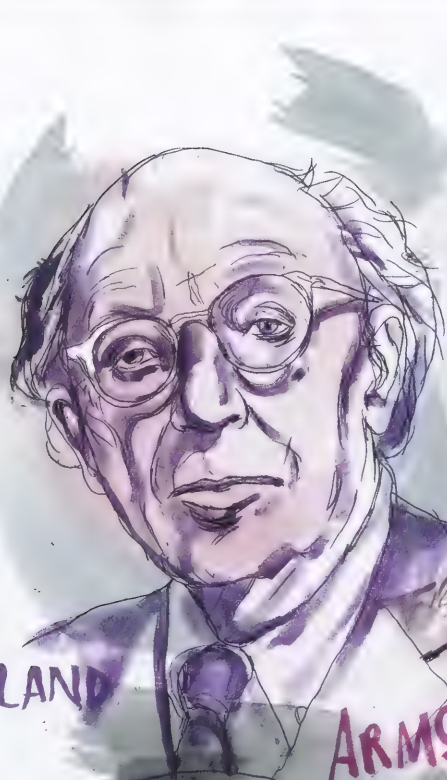
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illustration by  
Patrick Morgan

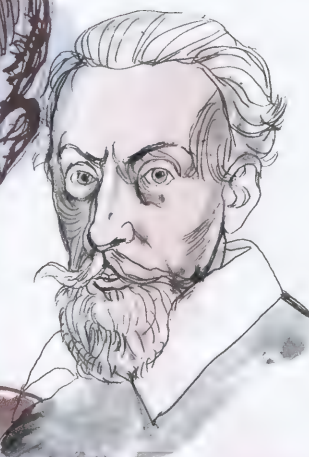




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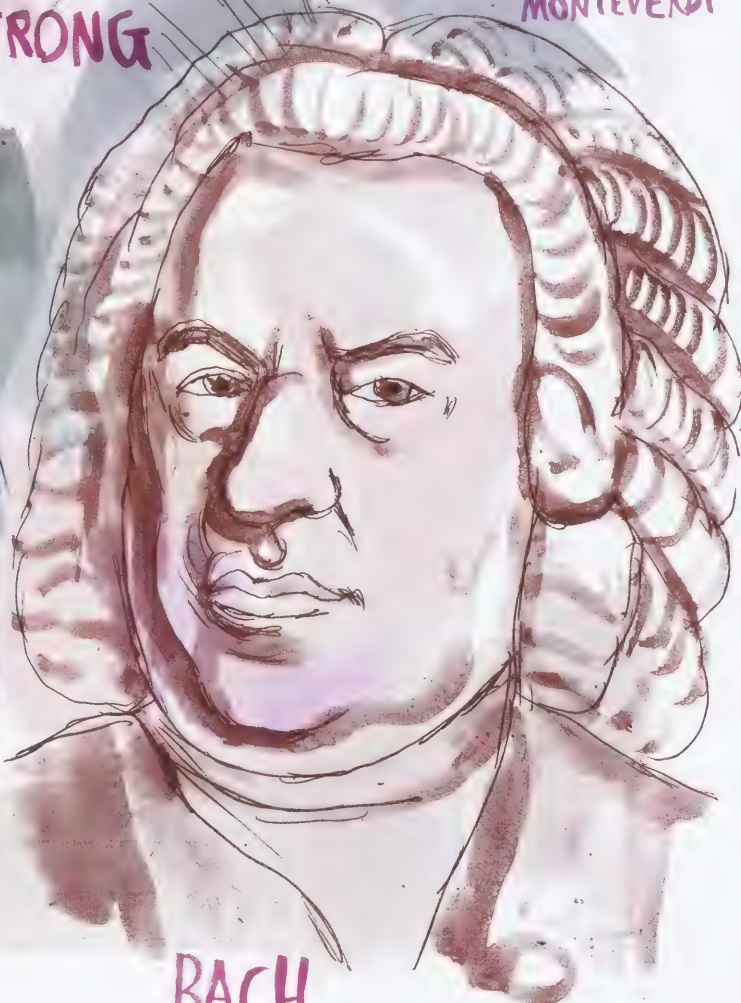
ARMSTRONG



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HILDEGARD OF BINGEN



BACH

"Music gives a soul to the universe,  
wings to the mind, flight to the  
imagination and life to everything." - Plato



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## Letters to the Editor



## Sources of Insight

Thanks so much for the Core Curriculum origin story (Winter 2019–20, “First Class”). Fifty years have passed since I took CC, Literature Humanities and Art Humanities. These three courses were among the most valuable experiences of my intellectual development in college. The other was organic chemistry, a foundation of my education and work as a physician. All four have remained at the core of my intellect throughout my adult life.

I have thought back to CC, Literature Humanities and Art Humanities thousands of times. They ground me. They are a source of reflection and insight. Especially now, they help put the political circumstances of our nation in perspective.

No work of literature has meant more to me than Plato’s *The Allegory of the Cave*. The story is so simple that at the time I wondered what the fuss was about. Yet many events and relationships of my life have recalled this allegory of the difference between appearance and reality, and the awakening of understanding.

Something else: In the years since, I have learned that I am slightly dyslexic. I suspect that in the early 1960s, when I took CC and Humanities, few people knew about dyslexia, much less understood what it is. Though mine is mild, it still dramatically reduces my reading speed. You can guess how this affected my participation in CC and Humanities.

After college, I continued to read portions of the assigned works. Yet even though I have read in full almost none of them, I think I understand today much of what the works are about, and I continue to refer to them, often opening the volumes I bought back then.

Only Art Humanities was unaffected by my dyslexia, and to this day I love art, attend lectures on artists and paintings, and go to art museums frequently.

**Richard Kapit '67**  
Rockville, Md.





### Delightful Discovery

Upon receiving the Winter 2019–20 issue, I immediately turned to the article on the origins of Contemporary Civilization (“First Class”) where, to my delight, on page 23, I found a photograph taken by my father, Bernard Sunshine ’46, of sailors ascending the steps to Hamilton Hall.

My father, now 92 and going strong, got a kick out of seeing it, too. The picture was taken during WWII, though, not WWI, as the caption suggests.

**Andrew Sunshine ’79**  
New York City

*[Editor’s note: CCT is also delighted to learn who the photographer was — one of our former class correspondents, in fact! Thank you for the ID, and we apologize for the caption error.]*

### Lifelong Learning

I write in response to Dean James J. Valentini’s invitation in the Winter 2019–20 issue’s “Message from the Dean,” “We want to hear how the Core has informed, guided and enlightened your life journey.”

I entered Columbia College with the Class of 1958, but after one year left to spend four years rising to the rank of sergeant in the Marine Corps. I was readmitted, as a member of the Class of 1962, but actually graduated in September

1961 after completing a three-credit summer class while working full-time for the *New York Daily News*.

My fragmented attendance record left me without the supportive network of longtime classmates that many graduates enjoy. But I carried away something even more valuable.

When I returned to the College after leaving the Marine Corps, my roommate and I were both taking Contemporary Civilization, but with different instructors. We would discuss the readings and arrive at a point saying, “I get the basic idea here, but what about this?” We’d go to class the next day and ask, “What about this?” That issue would be addressed in the next reading. Uncanny, no? Of course not — CC was designed to lead you from one idea to another.

I reluctantly signed up for Music Humanities, which turned out to be taught by an associate conductor of the New York Philharmonic. He would fill the blackboard with scales and notes, play a bit of Beethoven, then jab at the blackboard with a long pointer so could we see the notes that were thundering through the room. I now have nearly 200 operas on CD.

Through the years, I have slowly reread all of the classics I raced through to meet Literature Humanities deadlines, and they have enriched my life.

Most of all, I remember my writing teacher, George Knobbe. Midway through

the year, he broke his leg. Instead of turning the class over to a substitute, he had us meet in his Morningside Heights apartment. We would sit on the carpeted floor of his small living room and learn how to put our thoughts into our own words.

The valuable jewel that I carried away from Columbia, and the truth that Columbia taught me, is that learning is fun. I’ve been a student ever since.

**Donald C. Dilworth ’61**  
Silver Spring, Md.



### Taste Test

How superb that chef Ann Kim ’95 (Winter 2019–20, “Fire Power”) is spicing up Midwestern cuisine. Within minutes of finishing the article, we turned off the stove and raced to Pizzeria Lola. We can report the pizzas are as fine as any we’ve tasted in New York, New Haven and even Naples. Brava!

**Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn ’58, PS’62**  
Minneapolis

### Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not CCT, the College or the University. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and CCT style. Please direct letters for publication “to the editor” via mail or online: [college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus).





## Message from the Dean

# The Grandeur of the Core Curriculum

A 100th anniversary is particularly special, because there are so few things that persist that long. This is why we are having a special celebration of the Core Curriculum all this year. But the Core is not the only institution now having a 100th anniversary. The Grand Canyon National Park is another. I mention it because its founding in 1919 was guided by a vision of value at once both very similar to and very different from the vision we have of the Core.

Theodore Roosevelt said: "The Grand Canyon fills me with awe. It is beyond comparison — beyond description; absolutely unparalleled throughout the wide world ... Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is. Do nothing to mar its grandeur, sublimity and loveliness. You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see."

We feel that the Core, too, is "beyond comparison" and "absolutely unparalleled throughout the world." And we do want to keep it for our children, and our children's children and all who come after us, as the great experience of Columbia College. We want to do nothing "to mar its grandeur, sublimity and loveliness."

But, we do not want it to "remain as it is now" and we do not believe that "you cannot improve on it." Unlike the Grand Canyon's grandeur, "a wonder of nature," the product of the action of natural forces across millions of years, the Core is the product of the action of conscious human forces, with a most decidedly human value in mind, and that value is realized in a human context that is constantly changing. The Core is not a national monument. It is not a Columbia College monument. It is alive and responding to that changing context.

Like the Core itself, this Centennial is alive — alive with questions about the past, the present and the future of the Core. These questions are of particular importance during this Centennial, but they should be considered and answered every year. What are some of them?

I have said that the Core is always the same and always changing, and I believe that is accurate, but how do we elaborate that? Its objectives seem to remain the same, but the way in which we work to achieve those objectives must change as the circumstances of the world in which we live change, as they have done and will continue to do.



JEAN BEAUFORT

How should we explain the objectives in a way that makes clear the continuity of purpose, while ensuring a contemporary approach that continues to give value to the Core? How should we assess success in achieving what we aim to?

How do we make sure the Core will remain successful for every student in the future? How do we ensure that the Core empowers students to engage with a world neither they nor we can predict? How do we explain to students the importance of the Core in their development of the 13 competencies within My Columbia College Journey ([college.columbia.edu/journey/home](http://college.columbia.edu/journey/home)), our guide for students to obtaining the most value from the entirety of their College experience?

I encourage you to think about these questions and share your answers with us; they can be emailed to [core100@columbia.edu](mailto:core100@columbia.edu).

James J. Valentini  
Dean

The Grand Canyon —  
an "unparalleled" vista.



## John Jay Awards

On March 4, Columbia College celebrated the 42nd annual John Jay Awards Dinner, honoring six accomplished College alumni for distinguished professional achievements in a variety of fields ranging from finance, law and media to education, real estate and business. The dinner, held at the iconic Cipriani 42nd Street, raises money for the College's John Jay National Scholars Program, which provides financial aid and special programming to enhance the academic and extracurricular experiences of outstanding students. This year's award-ees were Michael Barry '89 (president and CEO of Ironstate Development); Lanny A. Breuer '80, LAW'85 (vice-chair of Covington & Burling); Anna Fang '04 (partner and CEO of ZhenFund); Poppy Harlow '05 (anchor of CNN Newsroom); Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89, TC'91 (head of school at The Hamlin School); and Victor H. Mendelson '89 (co-president of HEICO Corp.). See photos at [facebook.com/alumnicc/photos](https://facebook.com/alumnicc/photos).

## A Surprise Donation



Dr. George D. Yancopoulos '80, GSAS'86, PS'87, the 2019 Alexander Hamilton Medal recipient, wowed the crowd at the November 21

ceremony by announcing a \$10 million commitment to create a "Beginner's Mind" institute at Columbia. In addition to Yancopoulos's gift, the dinner raised a record-breaking \$2.35 million in support of the College, with \$1.35 million specifically earmarked to support College students pursuing scientific research.

Beginner's Mind, a concept often discussed by Dean James J. Valentini, speaks to the value of approaching people, interactions and ideas with an attitude of openness and eagerness, and with a lack of preconceptions.



EILEEN BARROSO

**TABLE TALK:** More than 450 people turned out for the Dean's Scholarship Reception, held February 11 in Roone Arledge Auditorium. The annual event brings named scholarship donors and College student recipients together to meet, share advice and swap stories about their College experiences.

"I believe that there is nothing more important than helping the next generation to face and conquer the truly existential threats, the challenge[s] of humankind," said Yancopoulos, the co-founder, president and chief scientific officer of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, at the dinner. "Listening to the dean, it became so clear to me that Beginner's Mind defines both the key to uniting humanity to do great things as well as the key to using science to address the most devastating threats to humanity, from disease to climate change."

## Praising Lorde



Poet and activist Audre Lorde LS'60's name now graces Multicultural Affairs's home in Alfred Lerner Hall; the dedication marks the first time a

space on the Morningside Heights campus has been named after a black woman.

The Audre Lorde Community Space, a resource for both College and Engineering students, will establish a home for identity-conscious community building. Lorde —

a graduate of the School of Library Science (which closed in 1992) — was a self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet." Born in New York City to West Indian immigrant parents, she had her first poem published in *Seventeen* magazine while a student at Hunter College H.S. Throughout the 1960s Lorde was a librarian in New York City public schools, and went on to be a professor of English at John Jay College and Hunter College, as well as poet laureate of New York State (1991–92).

## Centennial Celebration on Campus

A Century Celebration, marking the Core Curriculum's 100th anniversary, will take place on campus on Saturday, April 4. The keynote conversation will feature two prominent public intellectuals, Cornel West and Robert P. George. West is Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard, and a professor emeritus at Princeton, and George is the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton.

The day will also include the premiere of a Core documentary, a collaboration with director Ric Burns '78; family-friendly workshops; interactive sessions such as art studios and science experiments; and more. For details, go to [core100.columbia.edu](https://core100.columbia.edu).



## The Baseball Hall-of-Famer Who Wore "Clean Sox"

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90

**Q**uick — who was Columbia's greatest baseball player? Lou Gehrig CC 1925, right? Not necessarily. Consider Eddie Collins CC 1907.

A good chunk of Collins's fame rests on his having been one of the Chicago White Sox players who did *not* infamously throw the 1919 World Series to the Cincinnati Reds. He remains celebrated as one of the "Clean Sox," as opposed to the corrupt "Black Sox."

There was more, however, to "Cocky" Collins than that. He was a hard-charging, canny infielder, solid hitter, fast

runner and expert base stealer. One of the best second basemen ever, he had a lifetime batting average of .333. When he died in 1951, only three others had surpassed his total of 3,313 base hits — Honus Wagner, Tris Speaker and Ty Cobb, legends all.

"As a ball player he had no flaws," eulogized *The New York Times*. "I dreamed of becoming another Eddie Collins," wrote author James T. Farrell, whose "Studs Lonigan" trilogy of novels was a hit during the Great Depression. "It was as though he played ball for me. In my imagination, I lived his career."

Collins's own baseball philosophy was simple. "I like being a player," he said.

Hailing from Millerton, N.Y., the 5-foot-9 Edward Trowbridge Collins Sr. initially went out for Columbia football, becoming the starting quarterback. But he was also a Lions shortstop with a sharp arm. One winter's day, he reportedly knocked a freshman's decidedly unfashionable brown derby off with a snowball he threw from 75 yards away.

In his junior year, Collins started playing semipro ball and signed with the Philadelphia Athletics. Not long after graduating, he began making a name for himself. By 1910, he had already stolen 81 bases in a single season — the first Major Leaguer to exceed the 80-mark. (Altogether he stole 744 times, including six in one game — a feat he accomplished twice.)

Collins's other statistics remain astonishing. He played 2,826 career games, batted in 1,300 runs and established a Major League record of 512 sacrifice bunts. He was on six World Series championship teams.

But "he was a lot more than a set of numbers on a slotted card," wrote Rick Huhn in *Eddie Collins: A Baseball Biography*. Collins was known for tough yet fair play, integrity and intelligence. He was a

rare college graduate in the roughhouse, locker-room atmosphere of the era. When he signed to the Sox in 1915, it was for an annual salary of \$15,000 — substantially more than anyone else on the squad. Collins was able to command such a sum from the team's miserly owner, Charles Comiskey, because "Commy" knew "Cocky" was worth it.

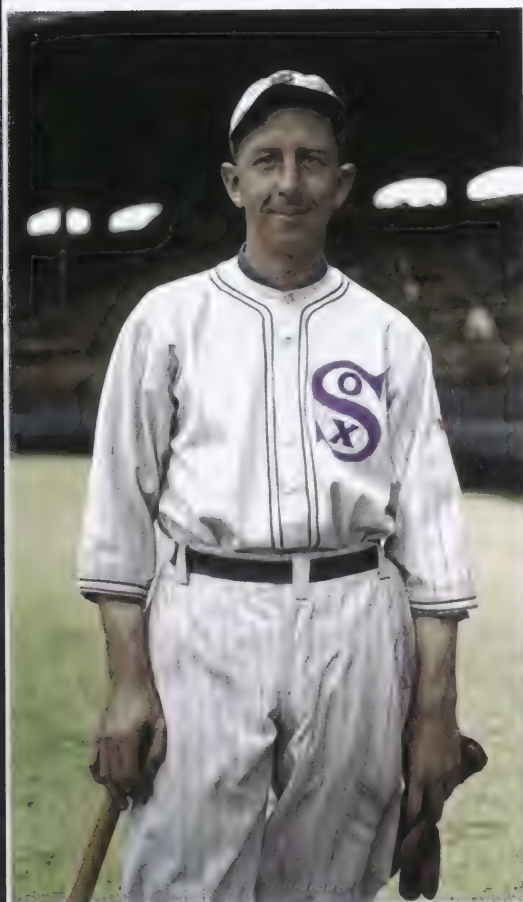
Admittedly, Collins's high pay, coupled with his tendency toward aloofness and independence, didn't make him especially popular. Nonetheless, in the end he was a committed cog in the Sox machine. "We may not have been each other's 'dearest friends,'" he said of the notorious Black Sox lineup, "but once we took the field we suddenly gelled into a formidable unit."

Collins established his public image for probity when the infamous "Eight Men Out" of the White Sox were indicted (though never convicted) for conspiring with professional gamblers to lose the 1919 World Series. Collins had nothing to do with the fix; indeed, his conniving teammates did not even approach him. And he spoke against reinstating any of those under suspicion:

"It would be a blow to the team and upset playing. I hardly think it possible for any of the indicted men to mingle with their former mates again. ... You must also regard the effect it would have on the public. ... The fans would never tolerate it. The whole team, honest players and indicted players alike, would be under a cloud."

At the same time, he said, "I feel sorry for some of the players whose careers have been cut short by the scandal." He especially felt for the uneducated "Shoeless Joe" Jackson of "Say it ain't so, Joe!" fame. "I pity Joe," said Collins, "for he is a man easily led and could have been swayed by good advice as well as the voice of the tempter."

Collins returned to the A's in 1927, retiring as a player following their 1930





World Series victory. After coaching the A's for two seasons, he joined the Boston Red Sox as general manager. He helped turn around a deteriorating team, leading them in 1946 to their first pennant in 28 years.

But Collins's biggest single stroke with Boston may have been spotting and sign-

ing Ted Williams. It was a no-brainer: "Your Aunt Susan could have picked Teddy out of 1,000 players," he quipped. In 1939, the year after he signed Williams, Collins was inducted into the newly dedicated National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. "I'm glad to be the bat boy for such a team as this," he said wryly.

In an exclusive statement to *Spectator* in 1915, as he was already cementing his reputation, Collins said, "I wish to emphasize three reasons why a Columbia man should devote some time to athletics and to baseball in particular. In the first place, pleasure; second, honor; and third, duty to himself and his college."

## StudentSpotlight

### TOP CORE MOMENT

"I loved W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*. When I read it in sophomore year I was also taking 'Introduction to African American Studies' and 'Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies,' and we read that book in both. I had three different settings in which I was reading the same text!"

### MY FAVORITE SPOT

"As cliché as it is, I really like sitting on the Steps. I think different parts of the day have a different feeling — when it's a sunny day, it's very crowded and it feels like the campus is alive and spirited. It's also nice at night when it's not so crowded, you get to look out at all the lights — it's very serene in those moments."

### CLASS ACT

"I'm taking 'The Social World,' which I decided to get into on a whim — I'd never taken a sociology class. We've been reading a lot of texts that describe the development of the self — that you're not actually able to develop without being socialized and interacting with others. We brought that into discussions of more modern topics like race and gender. I think it's really interesting; that concept definitely stuck with me."

### NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

"In my free time, I like to explore the city and art museums. I really like the Frick; it's where I take anyone who visits me!"



Meet **MADISON HARDEN '20**, an economics major from Philadelphia who will work for L'Oréal after graduation.

*"This year I've gotten heavily involved with alumni activities — I'm president of Columbia College Student Ambassadors, so I help plan a lot of events with alumni. I've gone to a lot of different events where I interacted and talked with people in really cool occupations."*

### LAST CHANCE

"I'm using this semester to try to take classes in any last area I haven't gotten to try."

### COFFEE BREAK

"I try to go out once a weekend to a coffee shop with my homework; I think it's nice to be in a different environment."





SCOTT RUDD

DidYouKnow?

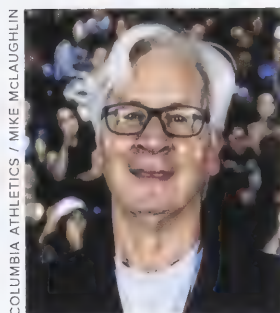
## The East Asian Library Features Law-Themed Stained Glass

The C.V. Starr East Asian Library, on the third floor of Kent Hall, is home to “one of the major collections for the study of East Asia in the United States, with over 1,000,000 volumes of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, Mongol, Manchu, and Western-language materials and almost 7,500 periodical titles, and more than 55 newspapers,” according to the Columbia University Libraries. It also features a large stained-glass window on its east side depicting the concept of Justice, a memento of Kent Hall’s time as the home of the Law School (from 1910 to 1960). The stained-glass windows were donated by Anna Chesebrough Wildey in 1913 in memory of her husband, Pierre Westcott Wildey CC 1860, LAW 1863.

## ROAR BITES

### A Legendary Dedication

Columbia’s basketball players are now squeaking their sneakers on a newly dedicated floor: In February, the center court in Leven Gymnasium was named in honor of Jonathan D. Schiller ’69, LAW’73.



COLUMBIA ATHLETICS / MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Even before the dedication, Schiller’s name had long been synonymous with Columbia basketball. A three-year letter winner, he was a member of the 1967–68 Ivy League men’s basketball championship team, which was ranked fifth in the country and was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. Schiller, a

frontcourt player who competed alongside future NBA players Jim McMillian ’70 and Dave Newmark ’68, was named to the inaugural class of Legends of Ivy League Basketball in 2017.

“For more than 50 years, Columbia basketball has been a constant and transformative element in my life,” Schiller said. “I have been privileged to work with many committed alumni in support of the basketball program, including through the last decade

with Columbia’s Board of Trustees and President Lee Bollinger. The dedication of this beautiful gym floor is a great honor for my family.” Schiller, a commercial litigator and arbitration law-

yer, has been a trustee since 2009; he received a John Jay Award in 2006 and the Alexander Hamilton Medal in 2012.

“I look forward to our women’s and men’s teams nailing 3-pointers from the spot where the ‘D’ is on the floor in pursuit of Ivy League championships,” Schiller said. “Go Lions!”



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

### Women Fencers Finish First

Columbia fencing continues to dominate the competition, as the women’s fencing team again captured the Ivy League crown — their third consecutive outright title, and the fifth time in six seasons that they’ve topped the podium.

The team went a perfect 6–0 at the Ivy League Championships, held in Boston in early February. The men’s team, meanwhile, took second place with a 4–1 record.



For the latest, download the Columbia Athletics app or visit [gocolumbiaions.com](http://gocolumbiaions.com).





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# VOICES OF WISDOM

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO TEACH THE CORE? ELEVEN FACULTY MEMBERS TELL US IT'S INSPIRING, INTENSE AND EXHILARATING.

No celebration of the Core Centennial would be complete without the voices of those who teach the curriculum. In any given year, the classes are led by close to 200 instructors representing more than 20 departments. It's a collective effort that, as one longtime professor put it, means that working at Columbia College is about something — that teaching the Core instills a sense of purpose, joins the instructors in a common cause and imparts to the entire College community a sense of tradition and shared intellectual history.

We asked 11 faculty members for their reflections and perspective on the Core. What was it like preparing to step outside of their specialties, and how has teaching the different courses shaped them as professors and scholars? What do they see as unique about the curriculum for students, and how is it different from the classes they elect to take? What meaningful or inspiring moments have stayed with them?

Though the professors were united in their belief in the Core, their words underscored the variety of insights that come from participating in this unique educational endeavor. And they affirmed that — for all the many times they've gathered at the seminar table — the experience is never the same twice.

— The Editors

ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
ALYSSA CARVARA

## SUSAN BOYNTON

PROFESSOR OF MUSIC,  
HISTORICAL MUSICOLOGY

Boynton started teaching in the Core shortly after she joined the Columbia faculty in 2000. Her research interests include liturgy and music in medieval Western monasticism.

**"Preparing for Music Hum has continually led me to make connections between different periods of music history. Thinking about music in broader terms has given me new ideas about composition and performance, as well as insight into relationships between the arts and humanities."**



She thinks a unique essence of the Core is the opportunity for discussion-based focus on primary sources:

**"Rather than approaching them through**

**layers of commentary and interpretation, students address primary sources — texts, music and images — directly (some in translation, of course). The learning is collaborative; faculty and students create an intellectual community."**

In summer 2015, Boynton and Art Humanities professor Robert E. Harrist Jr. began teaching a combined Art Hum/Music Hum program at Reid Hall in Paris:

**"Teaching the two courses in conjunction brings out the alignment of music and visual art. For example, Impressionism forms a useful background against which to consider the music of Debussy; the same is true for Picasso and Stravinsky. The juxtapositions bring out meaningful intersections that shaped how the arts were experienced historically."**



# NICHOLAS DAMES

THE THEODORE KAHAN  
PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES

Dames joined the College faculty in 1998; his area of specialty is the history of the novel in Britain and Western



Europe. He says teaching in the Core is “an experience that you just don’t get anywhere else.”

“My first semester of Lit Hum was intense, but weirdly triumphant, too, for surviving it. There’s almost nothing like it, when you bond with that first group, when you’re all doing it for the first time. ... After a few years of doing it you

realize there’s a kind of openness to that classroom that’s greater than when you’re teaching in your own discipline.”

Dames says “the immersiveness” is what’s most special about the Core for students:

“To be with the same 22 people for four hours a week all year long is unlike anything they would have here or anywhere else. It’s not stale familiarity, but productive familiarity, an intimacy. They have enough time to get used to you, to get frustrated with the limits of what the professor does, and to push at it a bit. If it works well, by the second half of the second semester you’re not running it in the same way anymore. That’s very much about the structure and not the content, and that to me is irreplaceable.”

And he thinks that humor in the classroom can be a productive mode of thinking:

“Finding something funny can really open texts up — and also make them stick.

**I have so many memories of levity, moments when the class really frees itself.** It’s not a successful term without a few laugh-out-loud moments!”

# NOAM ELCOTT '00

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MODERN ART  
AND MEDIA AND THE SOBEL-DUNN CHAIR  
FOR ART HUMANITIES

Elcott has chaired Art Hum since 2018, coming full circle from when he took the course in the first semester of his first year. He credits his own Art Hum professor, Stephen Murray (an expert on the Amiens Cathedral), with sparking his passion.

“It’s likely that even if your emphasis is 17th-century still life painting or Roman coins or 20th-century sculpture, **you will inspire students to pursue the most extraordinary topics and ideas and experiences within and beyond the Art Humanities curriculum.**”

Elcott tells graduate students who are preparing to be first-time preceptors that teaching the course involves a certain amount of letting go.

“It is both humbling, as it should be, and liberating, because no one expects you to be an expert. Sometimes undergraduates mistakenly think that you can possibly know all of it, when of course you can’t.”

He says that Art Hum students, similarly, need to experience the class as a safe space to engage with and question art, and that the aim of the course is not mastery of material, but rather openings onto new worlds:

“The number 1 goal is to spark the passion, provide the critical tools and transmit enough of the knowledge necessary to fuel a lifelong engagement with art.”





## WALTER FRISCH

THE H. HAROLD GUMM/HARRY AND ALBERT VON TILZER PROFESSOR OF MUSIC



Frisch is a specialist in Austro-German composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. He says that Music Hum is an opportunity to guide students' hearing and thinking toward a deeper understanding of music, and to expand their experience of something that's already very present for them:

**"For almost all our students, music is a basic, essential part of their lives. But what we study**

**in Music Hum is mostly not what they listen to regularly, so as instructors, we can build on what they already love in order to get them to appreciate Western classical music."**

Having taught the course more than 30 times, Frisch says that he's learned it's better to study fewer works in more detail; he might spend two or three full classes on an opera like *Don Giovanni* or a work like Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*:

**"Learning to listen, or to watch, in the case of opera, takes time, and this process takes place best in real time. I've found that going through works like these in some detail — stopping the recording or video, discussing, demonstrating a detail at the piano — really helps the students absorb and internalize the material."**

Some of Frisch's most rewarding teaching moments have come from having guest musicians perform in class.

**"Last semester we had four different live performances in my section, including a pianist from the Columbia-Juilliard program, Forrest Eimold ['22], who played Beethoven and Chopin. It was wonderful to see the students' faces as they watched his intense virtuoso playing and his focused concentration. They could see how the music of the composers we were studying comes alive in a performance."**



## ROBERT E. HARRIST JR.

THE JANE AND LEOPOLD SWERGOLD PROFESSOR OF CHINESE ART HISTORY

Though Harrist's field of expertise is the art of China, he originally set out to be a Matisse expert. His knowledge of Western art was invaluable preparation for Art Hum, which he began teaching in 2000.

**"I didn't really start to look at art carefully until I started teaching Art Hum. There's something about the intensity of the Core classes and, in the case of Art Hum, the intensity of looking required to make it work, that helped me get to a different level in my own engagement with the visual arts."**

He believes the goal of Art Hum is "to nurture the ability to derive visual pleasure from paying attention to the world":

**"If you learn to pay attention to the pattern of ornament on a doorway, and enjoy doing so, you might start paying attention to all sorts of things."**

**I think that given the state of the world and the country at the moment, paying attention is more important than ever."**

Harrist thinks the art and architecture on campus is a resource that greatly enriches the teaching of Art Hum:

**"When you walk out of Schermerhorn, the buildings you see are in one way or another connected to monuments we study. Being able to go straight from the classroom and out the door to show students something — whether it's the fluting of a column or a Corinthian capital — is a huge pedagogical advantage."**



# MATTHEW McKELWAY

TAKEO AND ITSUKO ATSUMI  
PROFESSOR OF JAPANESE ART HISTORY

McKelway earned his Ph.D. from Columbia in 1999; he returned as a professor in 2007. He chaired Art Hum twice — from 2009 to 2011 and from 2016 to 2018.

**“What I think is so distinctive about studying art history is it’s something that elicits an emotional reaction ... it goes to the mind through the eyes but in a different, more visceral way than we experience when reading a text. Art is a way to communicate that existed before written language, after all.”**



He started teaching the Core Curriculum in Spring 2008. Then-chair Robert Harrist told him, “Art Hum is the glue that holds the department together,” but as a Japanologist with no experience teaching the history of Western art, McKelway at first found the prospect “really daunting”:

**“I had a sense of awed panic. I felt prepared as an art historian, but what I hadn’t quite understood is that I could take the language I was using to talk about cultures I was more familiar with and apply it to Western art. What teaching outside your comfort zone does is make you think more broadly about big questions — about the nature of art, and what ‘art’ is.”**

McKelway says he appreciates how “a perfect cross-section” of students who might not otherwise interact are represented in his Art Hum classes, and that the Core provides them with a new way to communicate:

**“It creates a common conversation — not only within a single class, but across the entire curriculum. It’s not so much a Core body of knowledge, but a mind that has become used to exercising and thinking about big, sticky, tough questions.”**

# EDWARD MENDELSON

THE LIONEL TRILLING PROFESSOR  
IN THE HUMANITIES



Mendelson has been teaching at the College since 1981; his primary interest is 19th- and 20th-century literature.

**“I like talking about great books, so I am delighted to teach in the Core. But after I did it for the first time I started rewriting the syllabus a bit, swapping in books that I thought made more sense as part of a coherent story. When the Core didn’t teach Euripides’s *The Bacchae* —**

**which is to me the most disturbing play ever written — I put that in. I’ve replaced *Crime and Punishment* — which is a very great book! — with *Notes from Underground*.”**

He says a theme of his teaching is the difference between a collective identity, like gender or race, and “being a person”:

**“What I try to teach in Lit Hum is thinking for oneself. The inner life has no category, no ethnicity, no gender, no skin color.**

It’s not a product of compromises; it’s where you think what you want. I’ve swapped *Pride and Prejudice* for *Frankenstein*, a book that seems to me an ideal fit for the plot of the course, which is what it’s like to become an individual — what the price is as well as what the benefits are.”

Mendelson says one of his favorite moments is when he feels the students relax and “they stop being too shy to talk”:

**“There’s always a moment toward the middle of the term when a few students who mistrusted me start trusting me. I think some are not used to being spoken to as individuals, rather than as category members. Our whole culture is determined to think of human beings as categories, and I get to see people become themselves.”**





## CATHY POPKIN

THE JESSE AND GEORGE SIEGEL  
PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES

Popkin specializes in Chekhov, 19th- and 20th-century Russian prose, and literary theory, and has taught Lit Hum since 1986. She holds a reunion for each Lit Hum class toward the end of their senior year, and is continually moved by the camaraderie of the Core experience.

**"The most stunning thing about this program is seeing every kid in Butler poring over *The Iliad* at the same time, or hearing them argue about the ending of *Crime and Punishment* in the elevator in Hamilton. That universal community of readers is so powerful."**

She thrives on small-group conversations:

**"What I do best in the classroom has nothing to do with expertise; it has to do with making something happen right then and there in real time. It's even more exciting to do that when you're trying to puzzle your way through something strange and unfamiliar. And then you get to something and everyone gasps: that is the most thrilling thing in the world."**

She appreciates that the Lit Hum texts aren't beyond critique by the students or faculty:

**"You read against the grain a lot of the time; you don't just worship what you're teaching."**

## ELAINE SISMAN

THE ANNE PARSONS BENDER PROFESSOR  
OF MUSIC, HISTORICAL MUSICOLOGY

Sisman currently chairs Music Hum and has taught at Columbia — and in the Core — since 1982. She loves that the course offers students opportunities to be profoundly moved, and thinks that "there's a lot of human truth on offer" for students during their class trip to the Metropolitan Opera.

**"After *La Bohème* last semester, I heard from both male and female students: 'I knew**

**what was going to happen, but I didn't think I was going to cry at the end; I didn't know how it was going to affect me.'"**



She notes that students without musical backgrounds can be nervous at the start, but says

in reality, the class explores topics and questions that are new for most everyone.

**"There's always the sense in Music Hum of, oh, somebody took piano lessons or somebody can read notation, somebody's mother always took them to ballet. But I generally find that doesn't make a difference. You can have eight years of piano lessons and not have any idea of what is making the music tick."**

Sisman recalls that preparing to teach Music Hum was initially "terrifying," but says she took comfort in knowing the Core is intended as a place for experts to step outside their specialty and for amateurs to be learning together:

**"Music Humanities is a way of thinking and talking about how the music lives in itself. How did people respond to it then, and how do we respond to it now; it's not only what has it meant historically but why is it still being recorded or performed, and how does it speak to us today?"**



# MICHAEL STANISLAWSKI

THE NATHAN J. MILLER  
PROFESSOR OF JEWISH HISTORY

Stanislawski has taught in the Core for nearly 40 years, and chaired CC for four of them. A specialist in Jewish, European intellectual and Russian history, he says the Core is one of the main reasons he came to work at Columbia — and why he's stayed.



**"My view of CC is not that it's a canon of books that students have to read. It's really a debate about the fundamentals of life. Is there a god and if so, what does it mean for us? Have these students thought about what being a citizen means or should mean; what kind of political organization we should have? We have very smart students, but it's rare that they will have thought about these things. So here you're introducing these questions to them."**

He is inspired by the graduate student preceptors who teach in the Core:

**"It may sound corny, but in this time when the humanities are in such crisis and are shrinking, it's uplifting to see these students who really are dedicated to studying and learning and teaching them."**

One of his proudest teaching moments occurred just last year:

**"I had a student, a very smart student, but literally she had no idea how to express her own ideas. I had to sit down with her and say, 'Give me an example of what you have an opinion about.' She did, and I said, 'Now tell me what you feel and think about that,' and she told me. Now, I said, tell me what someone who was writing about it would say, and she tried that and it clicked — I could see it click — the difference between a personal view and an analysis. She had never done that before; she had only given back to professors what they wanted from her."**



# KATJA VOGT

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

With its focus on big questions, Vogt says the Core plays to some of her central interests. A specialist in ancient philosophy, ethics and normative epistemology, she's taught both CC and Lit Hum, and values having extended conversations with students with such different perspectives, experiences and goals.

**"When I was a high school student in Germany, Kant was 'in the milk you drink.' This level of familiarity can mislead one into thinking that the ideas are highly plausible. But when you read *Groundwork* with students in CC, it's a different experience — for most students, the steps in Kant's argument aren't intuitive at all. This is bound to lead to questions about pretty much every sentence. For me, teaching Kant in the U.S. — also in my ethics classes — has helped me see Kant with fresh eyes."**

She says Lit Hum is a special teaching experience — because it comes for most students in their first year, it sets the tone for their College journey:

**"It's as if the students get to discover two complex worlds at the same time: our campus and the universe of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*."**

She also appreciates having the chance to talk with students about one of her favorite authors:

**"I love Homer — in another life, I could be a Homer scholar. The Core has given me the opportunity to sometimes switch into this role."**



**H**ow do you make people care about a story that's been flooding their news feeds and TV screens for years?

That's the question Francesca Trianni '11, JRN'13, a senior video producer at *TIME*, and her colleagues faced in summer 2016, as media outlets worldwide were saturated with images and news items about Syrian war refugees. The editors were looking for new ways to help their audience connect to the enormity of the crisis. "When you hear 'refugee,' you think you already know the story," Trianni says.

Then Trianni's attention was drawn to a little-known statistic: 1 in 10 women living in refugee camps was pregnant. She saw the potential to tell a human story with universal context, and pitched the idea of interviewing an expectant Syrian woman; her editor took it a step further and suggested documenting a year in the life of a family with a newborn.

Trianni eventually became part of the team whose reporting led to *TIME*'s 2018 multimedia project, *Finding Home*. The work also led to a milestone for Trianni as a videographer: She directed and filmed her — and *TIME*'s — first feature documentary, *Paradise Without People*, which had a sold-out screening in November at

DOC NYC 2019 and is now playing at festivals around the country.

The film follows the lives of two Syrian women, Taimaa and Nour, living in a refugee camp in Thessaloniki, Greece, from the day they give birth to their children's first birthday. Just months after that fateful pitch meeting, Trianni, *TIME* bureau chief Aryn Baker and award-winning photojournalist Lynsey Addario were inside the camps. After asking dozens of families for permission, they found two who were willing to be filmed, photographed and reported on for a year — a tall order for anyone, with an added need for cultural sensitivity among women who wear the veil and the challenge of getting access inside the hospital.

"I was so lucky to work with Lynsey and Aryn — they've both spent a lot of time in the Middle East, and they taught me a lot," Trianni says. "We were all women — the three of us, and all the translators, too. They were incredible in helping to negotiate those relationships. We wouldn't have been able to do it otherwise.

"War stories are often told from a male perspective, and we made a conscious effort to tell this story from a female point of view," she says. "Growing up, my parents bought the newspaper every day, and all the

# A DIRECTOR DEBUT

VIDEOGRAPHER **FRANCESCA TRIANNI '11, JRN'13**

PUTS A HUMAN FACE ON THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

BY JILL C. SHOMER



IAL





## A DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

serious, respected journalists I read were men. Working with women who had successful careers, seeing that that's possible and how amazing they were — it really helped me.”

Back in New York, the team found its reporting had yielded even more stories. To reach a wider audience, *TIME* created four print cover stories, launched an Instagram page where they could tell stories daily and produced an interactive online feature. The multimedia approach worked: *Finding Home* was nominated in 2018 for a News & Documentary Emmy Award and won the 2018 World Press Photo contest for Innovative Storytelling.

“I realized when I was filming that I was capturing something I’d never seen before,” Trianni says. “I’d watched a lot of films about refugees and immigrants, who were always portrayed as heroes or invaders — there was no middle ground. But these women and

their husbands were just young couples caught in the middle of this huge humanitarian crisis and trying to figure it out.

“It’s a really hard time to tell a story that lives in the grey,” she continues. “These are human beings who are flawed, and they make mistakes. Sometimes it’s hard to connect with them. I filmed everything myself and I felt so much responsibility, especially at a time like this, the way we act with such fear toward the Other. But I wanted to show something different and true.”

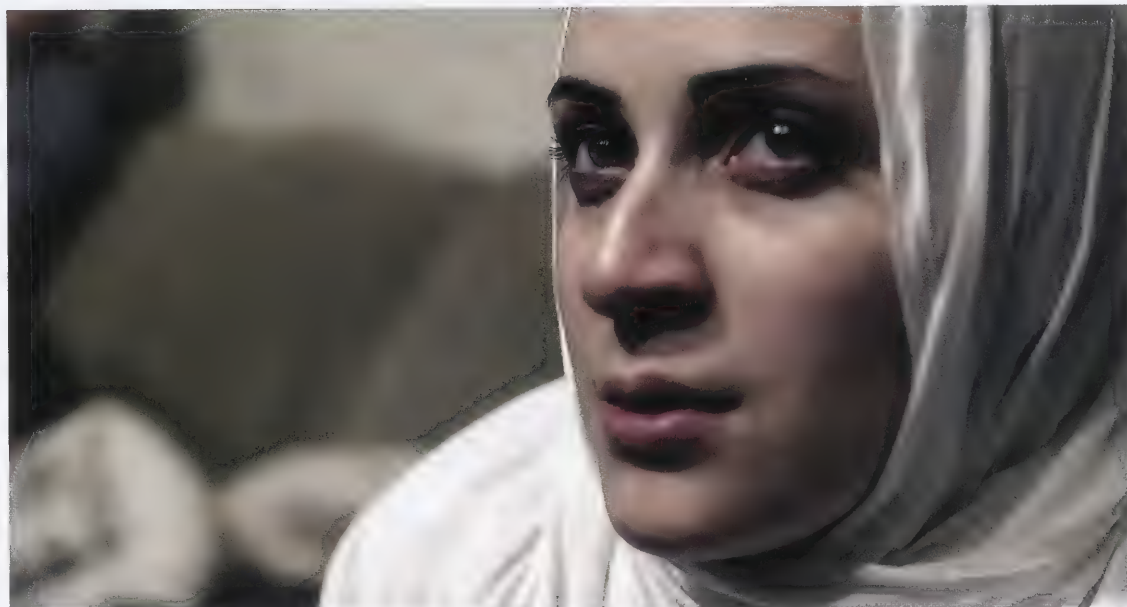
Trianni never thought she would be a filmmaker, but got started on her path at the College. A native of Modena, a small town in Northern Italy (“we’re famous for balsamic vinegar”), she’d never heard of Columbia. She was part of a study-abroad program in high school and learned English in a small suburb outside of Boston; one of her teachers encouraged her to take the SAT and apply to American colleges. “Nobody in my town went to school in America,” she says. “My family and I knew nothing about the application process.” Trianni laughs, recalling that she was so shocked and excited to get into the College that her parents thought an intruder had broken into their home because of her screaming.

She started out studying political science. “I grew up with Berlusconi in power and saw how much of my country was being hurt by his presidency,” Trianni says. “I wanted to have agency to make a change in history.” A John Jay Scholar, she landed an internship with the first lesbian member of Italian parliament; though she found the experience interesting, she lost her taste for politics and was left questioning what she really wanted to do.

Trianni’s future was changed by a book. In her junior year, she read *The Sack of Rome: Media + Money + Celebrity = Power* = *Silvio Berlusconi* by Alexander Stille. “It



**ABOVE:** Nour and Yousef Altallaa, with their daughter, Rahaf, wait for asylum in Thessaloniki, Greece, after fleeing Syria. Nour found out she was pregnant the day the couple decided it was too dangerous to stay.



Taimaa, a Syrian refugee from Idlib, moments after she arrived in her new home in Estonia.





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was such a great piece of journalism, fair and fascinating," she says. "He helped me understand the history of my own country." After finding out Stille was a professor at the Journalism School, Trianni wrote a fan letter thanking him for his work. He wrote back saying he needed an Italian speaker to help with his next book, and did she want to be his research assistant? She did.

"I helped him research a book about his family history and with a regular column he wrote for the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*," Trianni says. "He had a seat in understanding history. I couldn't believe that was a job!"

Stille, the San Paolo Professor of International Journalism, encouraged Trianni to apply to the J-School and has continued to be a mentor. "Francesca has turned herself into a first-rate journalist," he says. "Her work combines deep passion, powerful commitment and great journalistic integrity. She tracked immigrant families for more than a year to find a compelling way to tell their stories and did it so well that she managed to overcome a climate of general indifference around those issues."

Trianni thought "journalism" meant being a writer, but found her passion for video storytelling in a digital media class. "When I started working in video I felt like everything clicked — I found a way that I could stand out, I felt that I had something that I could bring to it. That's such a wonderful feeling, when you realize you're good at something."

She didn't want to stop. After a six-month internship with Reuters, Trianni landed at *TIME* in 2014, working on breaking news stories. Ready for some-

thing more enterprising, she created a six-minute video about Emma Sulkowicz '15 and presented it to her bosses; soon after she was creating short documentaries and eventually was producing video exclusively.

Trianni has continued to get feedback about *Finding Home* and *Paradise Without People* since the premiere in October. "Teachers have told me they use the interactive story in their classrooms, and I've heard from others that they've never seen refugees portrayed that way. It feels like such an accomplishment."

She recalls an especially relatable scene, where one of the main characters, Taimaa, is preparing for her daughter's first birthday. "Every parent understands the feeling of wanting your child's birthday party to be memorable. Right before cutting the cake, as everyone is singing, Taimaa starts crying — and you can tell that she's just now realizing that no matter what she does, no matter how hard she tries, her daughter is still growing up a refugee, and Taimaa won't be able to provide her with the 'perfect' birthday party anytime soon."

Trianni is eager to make more feature films and learn new ways to reach and connect with an audience. "I liked doing something that made viewers uncomfortable, that maybe made them rethink something they thought they already knew," Trianni says. "Challenging people's assumptions about the world around them — that's what journalism does, right?"



# “RANGE”

## AND HIGHER EDUCATION

By Jill C. Shomer



Last fall *Columbia College Today* spoke with writer **David Epstein '02, JRN'04, GSAS'04** and **Julie Crawford**, the Mark Van Doren Professor of the Humanities and former chair of Lit Hum, to talk about Epstein's latest book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*.

*Range*, which was released in 2019 and promptly became a *New York Times* bestseller, offers a well-researched and thoughtful rebuttal to society's inclination toward mastery over multiplicity. Epstein writes, "The challenge we all face is how to maintain the benefits of breadth, diverse experience, interdisciplinary thinking and delayed concentration in a world that increasingly incentivizes, even demands, hyperspecialization."

It's not surprising that Epstein, formerly a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated* and author of the 2013 bestseller *The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance*, introduces a primary analogy for specialization versus generalization by citing two of the greats: Tiger Woods, who first picked up a golf club at 7 months old, and Roger Federer, who dabbled as an athlete for years before settling into tennis superstardom.

Epstein makes a solid case for being a "Roger"; his former professor Crawford was eager to discuss the debate as it applies to higher education, as well as Epstein's findings on fast versus slow learning. What follows is an edited excerpt of their conversation.



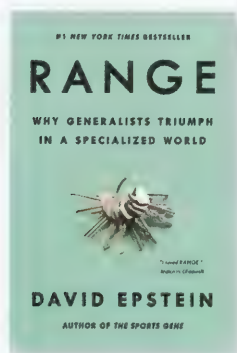


Photographs by Zack Garlitos

It came to a head when we were reading *The Decameron* — this group of students wall themselves inside a garden, away from the death of the Plague, and tell stories; by being away from the destruction of civil society, they restore values with their storytelling. When we talked about it, Julie put up veils over the window and the door and said, “This is our garden, we’re shut off from whatever is going on outside.” I thought that was the dumbest thing I ever heard, like, “What does *symbolism* have to do with my actual life?!” She called me into her office later and told me that symbolism *is* reading, if you want to be a good reader. That really challenged me.

Now I’m far on the opposite side of the spectrum — I read voraciously and am always aware of symbols and analogies. Julie cued me to the fact that I was getting in my own way, and I came around to seeing literary texts as the preservations and challenges of culture. Now I think of books as a sort of privileged garden that people can dive into for a while. These questions I take on in *The Sports Gene* and *Range* — nature versus nurture, how specialized or how broad to be — I can’t answer those questions, but I can hope to make those conversations more productive and interesting, where someone can step away from whatever they’re doing and consider them.

**JULIE CRAWFORD:** I thought about higher education the whole time I was reading David’s book. What he was just saying about coming into Columbia with a sense of the elite education and the importance of the education but not necessarily the practices of the education — what other system allows you to see and experience education as a web of social good? What is it that creates knowledge in a



**COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY:** David, you specifically asked for Julie to be part of this conversation. Can you describe the influence she had on you?

**DAVID EPSTEIN:** [Laughs] I feel nervous, like I’m reverting back to my freshman self in front of my professor! I think I came to Columbia with something of an anti-intellectual streak. I was oriented toward achievement and going to a good school, but I don’t know if I was actually oriented toward learning. I think I was also intimidated — I didn’t realize that so many of my classmates would be coming from private schools, and reading on a higher level. I wasn’t attuned to reading deeper than what was exactly on the page.



larger sense, where it isn't just end-oriented or a model of mastering things in the present? It's something you wish you could tell every student in the moment: You're not going to figure it out in the next year, or in the next four years.

**CCT:** Julie, do you sense from students that their education is only a means to an end?

**CRAWFORD:** Donors and administrators and researchers tell students all the time not to chart a tight path, not to major in something “secure.” It's certainly true for tech careers that didn't exist 10 years ago. But there are also counter-pressures, which often have to do with money — for instance, families who say: “We're spend-

**CCT:** David, you wrote: “We have a collective complex about sampling, zigzagging and swerving from iron-clad long-term plans.” Where do you think this comes from? Do you think social media has had an effect?

**EPSTEIN:** I think it has sort of waxed and waned throughout history. Specialization made a lot of sense for most people in industrial economies, where work this year looked like work last year and you might be able to expect that for your entire life. We see some of what happens when people are used to that sort of environment, where you have one discrete training period early in your career and you never have to relearn anything or reinvent yourself — those people are not so adaptable and aren't prepared if there's dislocation. Now we're in an era

opposite of the slow practice — the dilatory, accidental and error-prone processes that you talk about in your book and that most professional educators believe education is about. I always call reading in Lit Hum “a slow practice in a fast world.” It's the *practice* part that's harder, the idea of something you have to do without immediate rewards. We all love dynamic, immediate things that seem to work right away, but it's much harder to do the other kind of thing.

**CCT:** Do you think the Core and liberal arts in general are helping people open their minds to other paths and other points of view?

**EPSTEIN:** The Core certainly did that for me. I'm still processing information I got from the Core. In my book I quoted from a text I read in “Major Texts of the Middle East and India,” which I took because of Lit Hum. I still have my books from Music Hum. The Core gave me the framework to get a foothold in understanding. The biggest gift for me in writing this book was the writing I got to do about art and music; it's very much a continuation of the journey that the Core started me on. I'm not going to be a specialist in any one of these areas, but I can build these frameworks to continue my self-education.

**CRAWFORD:** The book is a vindication against the argument that what the Core does is give cocktail party conversation. It's not just about name-dropping; it's more about analogical thinking but also the slow reveal, the surprise juxtaposition, or the return.

But David's right; when you're 19 in CC, you're a radically different person than you are even when you graduate. I would love to hear whether there is data on students who are made to take a variety of classes, and if there's a greater shift in those students in what they think they want to major in and what they end up taking. My hunch is that must be true.

**EPSTEIN:** That happened to me! I ended up in a career that I'd had no idea about. But it is true; students who sample more do end up more often majoring in things they hadn't heard of when they were in high school.



“I always call reading in Lit Hum ‘a slow practice in a fast world.’ It's the practice part that's harder, the idea of something you have to do without immediate rewards.”

ing this money, therefore you need to do something we can narrativize.” And there's an alarmist industry promoting the ideas that *Range* argues against: Commit fast, commit early, commit to something that seems like a sure bet, and that is economically feasible.

**EPSTEIN:** Julie hits on one of the themes of the book, which is that sometimes the things you do to cause what looks like optimal outcomes in the short term undermine long-term development. It's deeply counter-intuitive. People with more career-oriented education do jump out to an income lead early on, but they become not very adaptable — and in a knowledge economy, while work changes a lot, they spend a lot less time overall in the workforce. So they might win in the short term and lose in the long run. I think that process connects directly to education. We ask people to make choices at the time of fastest personality change in their life, to make choices for a person they don't yet know.

where you have to keep learning — it's a big shift; the world we live in has changed a lot faster. And the pressure ramps up because of the expense of education. I can only speculate on the effect that social media has, but I think it infuses everything with more intensity.

**CCT:** It's another element of pressure.

**EPSTEIN:** Absolutely, plus it's highly curated and unreal. It's like the Olympics — people are only looking to see the best in the world. Most people aren't on social media looking for the norm. It's an unending ability to feel behind.

**CRAWFORD:** One thing I paid close attention to in *Range* was pop-up knowledge, like a BuzzFeed version of a research study that says you shouldn't major in X, and then it gets circulated and becomes a wise-sounding info nugget. That kind of information retrieval, recirculation and use is the



**CRAWFORD:** Another thing I love about the Core is that faculty are teaching *radically* outside their expertise. The first time I taught Lit Hum, I'd read maybe three books on the syllabus. And so what's great is, you're learning along with the students; you're not coming in with pre-conceived expertise. You have specialists in other areas teaching Lit Hum and you get that cross-pollination — you become aware in real time of the multiple different kinds of learning that can happen in this collective enterprise, where nobody is coming in as an expert in everything.

**CCT:** This is a perfect segue into fast learning versus slow learning — that was a fascinating chapter. David writes: "It's difficult to accept that the best learning road is slow." Can you both elaborate on that? Is that a sticking point for students?

**EPSTEIN:** One realization is that most students are not very good at evaluating their own learning in the moment. It's an important thing to be aware of, because it's really difficult to combat. One of the quotations from a cognitive psychologist sticks in my head: "Difficulty isn't a sign that you're not learning, but ease is." We're oriented toward measuring our own learn-

because if it's consumable it's easily assimilable to what you already know. What you really want, as David says, is struggle, is that difficulty. But if students feel like they're confused, it's difficult for them to realize it's great, because it messes with their heads.

**CCT:** How do you think the potential advantages of generalization can be imparted to performance-oriented young people?

**EPSTEIN:** I think the best thing I can do is write a book about it and hope a lot of people read it [laughs]. I've been getting invited a lot of places to talk about it. People are looking for analogies and other ways to think, so I hope some of the book's message will resonate.

**CRAWFORD:** One thing the internet does is afford access. My 14-year-old son is very interested in reading about what people did before they became the thing that is awesome now. It's not so much about narrativizing the rise of the great person, but rather narrativizing the indirection of the path, the great variety of the path. I find that when you talk to students all the time, and tell them to do something crazy or different [from the path they're on], you're also speaking to powerful winds on

**CCT:** There's a feeling of relief to hear stories about these exceptional others — to realize there are many ways to get there.

**CRAWFORD:** On that note, David, another thing I really loved about your book is how you stress the collaborative nature of becoming a person. One of the things I feel the Core is so successful at, specifically because of the mechanics of the 22-person class, is reminding people that this is not a journey you're doing on your own. It's a really important observation to keep making, that many things are collaborative. I feel like that's a real subtext in your book. Even though you may focus on recognizable names and really wonderful stories, I'm really interested in looking at the collaborators, the cultures, the co-makers and the no-named interlocutors who create the kinds of knowledges and successful enterprises that you talk about. That's something to remind young people, that we're doing all of this with each other.

**CCT:** David, how does it feel to have another bestseller?

**EPSTEIN:** As I get older I take myself less seriously. I've realized the importance of luck. But it's amazing to see a lot of people engage with your work. And even the critiques were totally fair, and something for me to learn from — I don't know if that's me maturing or the issues were less controversial than in my first book, but that's the best thing you can ask for.

**CRAWFORD:** David, by writing this book you've actually illustrated your thesis. You've had all these experiences and did all this diligent research across realms, and what you're telling us is: This is something we need to be thinking about. You should take credit for the fact that it's coming at a time when people need that insight.

**CCT:** Really badly, actually [laughs]. It's such a strong, positive message.

**CRAWFORD:** Free research of ideas by free thinkers isn't always going to be end oriented or lead to a huge breakthrough. It's sometimes just going to be pretty marvelous.



"We're oriented toward measuring our own learning by how fluid it feels and how quick the progress is, which in many cases is the opposite of what we really want."

ing by how fluid it feels and how quick the progress is, which in many cases is the opposite of what we really want.

**CRAWFORD:** What you remind me of, as I enter my 20th year of teaching, is that the actual outcomes happen years after you're out of the classroom. When students tell me something like, "That was a beautiful lecture," I think, "Hmmmm. That's not what I was going for." Because it's not supposed to be beautiful, or quite literally consumable,

the other side, like parents or student loans. Sometimes I think it's just the crosscurrent of conversation that needs to happen.

So David, if you're coming to give that talk, you're also part of that crosscurrent — because people have read about Federer and Tiger Woods, but in your interactions with people, you're also talking about subjects and people that are more available to them and their own experience. It's those cross-fertilizations that need to happen, talking to people outside your silo.



NIA BATTS '07  
**BLOWS**  
**AWAY**  
EXPECTATIONS



BY ANNE-RYAN SIRJU JRN'09

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KAT STEVENSON









**D**etroit native Nia Batts '07 watched from New York City as the 2008 financial crisis left her hometown reeling; industry left Motown en masse, unemployment skyrocketed and Detroit's debt mounted — by 2013, it had declared bankruptcy, the largest U.S. city ever to do so.

"I think when you leave a place and you see that it's suffering when you're not there, there's a little bit of latent guilt that starts to set in," Batts muses.

Now Batts has come home to make Detroit — and its residents — shine, by taking a radically inclusive approach to beauty, entrepreneurship and philanthropy. Detroit Blows, the salon Batts started with business partner Katy Cockrel and investor Sophia Bush, was founded on the idea that beauty could (and should!) be accessible to, inclusive of and beneficial to the community.

The premise is simple: a salon at which women of all races and hair types and textures can receive services by knowledgeable technicians, and from which a percentage of profits are reinvested into the community through the

company's philanthropic arm, Detroit Grows. The salon, which opened in October 2017, quickly made national headlines, with write-ups in women's and general interest magazines (*Marie Claire* and *People*), in business magazines (*Forbes*) and on beauty websites (Refinery 29). The business partners landed on *People*'s "25 Women Changing the World of 2018" list and in, 2019, Batts appeared on *Inc.*'s list of "100 Women Building America's Most Innovative and Ambitious Businesses." And as word spread about Detroit Blows, so did its influence on the community.

Batts's idea for Detroit Blows was born from her experience as a commuter to her own hometown.

At the time, Batts was based in NYC as Viacom's head of strategic partnerships and social innovation, helping non-profits and large corporations highlight their philanthropic work. After being assigned to a Detroit-based automotive company account, she started traveling regularly to the Motor City. And that's when she noticed a problem — Batts, who is African American, couldn't find a conve-





nient salon downtown that could style her hair. “I would go to the Detroit suburbs and spend my money there,” she says, “then come back to the automotive company and talk about how we had to keep dollars in the city. The hypocrisy, after a while, wasn’t lost on me.”

Looking for solutions, she connected with her childhood friend Cockrel, who is biracial and is a communications and public relations specialist in Detroit. The pair realized that a downtown salon with stylists who could expertly handle multiple hair types would fill a sorely needed niche. Batts’s best friend, actress Bush (who is white), came on as the first investor. “We knew that we wanted to create an inclusive model because salons have traditionally been segregated spaces,” Batts says. “We wanted to go someplace where

I could get my hair done, she could get her hair done, everyone could get their hair done and we could begin to dismantle this idea that you only want to be serviced by someone who looks similar.”

The partners soon secured a location in a diverse part of downtown and, within two years of its opening, their goal had been realized: “You see women in our salon sitting next to each other who, historically, have never sat next to each other in a salon,” Bush said last October, appearing on a panel at the *Forbes* “Under 30 Summit” in Detroit. “It is creating an intersectional awareness and community that, to us, is paramount.”

Detroit Blows offers blowouts, up-dos and curly-hair friendly styles, as well as other services like manicures and waxing, using all non-toxic products. (Batts notes she and the staff chose their products

by testing on themselves: “Everybody on our leadership team had a different hair type, and so we were able to take products home, use them and then talk about how they worked.”) By funneling \$1 from every blowout and a portion of all retail sales into Detroit Grows, the founders began to put their profits back into the community.

“For us, it was a much larger opportunity to think about the role that beauty can play in a conversation around community revitalization, around identity politics, around consumer-packaged goods,” Batts says. “We’re understanding the power that we, as consumers, have to direct those dollars toward what it is that we want to see.”

Batts knew she wanted to work with established local nonprofits that had the institutional knowledge and frame-



work to help Detroit Grows have the most impact, and partner with larger companies to help maximize its reach. On the micro-grant level, Detroit Grows has donated to nonprofits such as Alternatives for Girls and Empowerment Plan to sponsor educational development programs for women. “Nia and I try to prioritize time with organizations that are impacting the community positively,” Bush told *Hour Detroit* in a February 2019 interview. “Last time I was in town, we went to visit the team at Empowerment Plan to see what they are doing with their sleeping bag coats. When we visited, we got to tour their warehouse space, learn about employee training and the sewing process, and met a group of the employees. They have such an inspiring story of helping to lift people out of homelessness, provide job and financial training, and focus on employee wellness.”

In addition to micro-grants, the team also works with for-profit businesses to offer entrepreneurship grants; Detroit Grows recently partnered with the female-founded social networking and dating site Bumble to award four women-run local businesses grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000. “Economists talk about the multiplier effect — if you invest in women and girls, that investment goes further,” says Batts. “It’s an investment in their families, it’s an investment in their communities, it’s an investment in the idea that women matter and their ideas matter and are important.”

In interviews, Batts is confident and passionate. She sees her city healing and says she’s excited to be part of “that energy and grittiness and maker culture” that has always defined Detroit. The hometown salon has also given Batts a chance to make a statement about defining beauty. She stresses that Detroit Blows wants to move “beyond the blowout” (the company motto) and redefine how “beautiful hair” is seen.

“It’s an opportunity for us to acknowledge that beauty, for us from a hair standpoint, is not just straight,” she says. “Straight hair is not just *the* beautiful hair, it’s whatever you want your hair to do that day ... We are at the moment just one small salon in Detroit, but we’ve been able to become a part of a national discourse.”



## A Filmmaker's First

Master of suspense Brian De Palma '62 is back with an entirely new project

Celebrated movie director **Brian De Palma '62** has always been known — like his idol Alfred Hitchcock — as a master of the unexpected. Again and again, in movies from *Scarface* to *Mission: Impossible*, a scene will grab us in suspense, as tightly as the bloody hand reaching up from the grave in *Carrie's* final moments. So it shouldn't be any surprise that, at almost 80, De Palma has one more plot twist in store for us: his first published novel.

• *Are Snakes Necessary?* (Hard Case Crime, \$22.99) — co-written with his partner, Susan Lehman, a former *New York Times* editor — is set in the murky moral terrain familiar to his film's fans. It's a pulp noir political thriller, a genre that De Palma clearly loves. He tells *CCT* that both "the brutal directness of the prose" and "the characters — sexy, duplicitous women, morally flawed men" — appeal to him. Along with the auteur's trademark gotchas, De Palma and

Lehman provide references to Hitchcock and others in the cinematic pantheon. (Its quirky title is a film-nerd in-joke, name-checking a book glimpsed in Henry Fonda's hands in Preston Sturges's classic screwball comedy, *The Lady Eve*.)

De Palma's gritty thriller was a perfect fit for its noir publishing imprint, co-founded in 2004 by Charles Ardai '91. Ardai



De Palma with his co-author, Susan Lehman.

was excited to publish the director's work, and was impressed by De Palma's "sharp, ruthless look" at current politics. "This is not just a great crime story," he says. An added bonus was Ardai's "delighted" discovery that De Palma was also a College grad. "When I was a student,

I had the opportunity to meet, and in some cases study under, some truly towering figures — Grace Paley, Philip Roth, Allen Ginsberg '48, Mary Gordon. In some ways I like to think of getting to work with Brian now as an extension of that exceptional Columbia experience."

It was in fact at the College that De Palma, a surgeon's son from Pennsylvania, discovered his lifelong métier. When he arrived in the late '50s, the teenage science fair whiz was studying to become an engineer. But the radical winds blowing through Morningside Heights in those years had a bracing effect. French New Wave cinema was all the rage, and De Palma became entranced by Jean-Luc Godard, the Maysles Brothers and the classics of John Ford and Howard Hawks. "He hocked all his scientific equipment for a Bolex movie camera," *People* magazine once noted.

Although much of his filmmaking education took place off-campus, De Palma was able to learn key storytelling basics from professors such as Robert Brustein GSAS'57 (later head of Yale Drama School). De Palma remembers reading Ibsen's plays in Brustein's class; he says he still thinks of lines like those from the emotional finale of *The Master Builder*. "It was my initial introduction to masterful dramatic writing," he says. "Lessons learned in that class live in my writing today."

As his cinematic skills developed, De Palma progressed from making avant-garde short films (like *Woton's Wake*, with William Finley Jr. '63) to counterculture satires (*Greetings, Hi, Mom!*) and documentaries for hire. "I was a very good cameraman," he remarks with superb understatement in a 2015 documentary, *De Palma*. He ended up at Warner Bros. in Hollywood, where he became part of a cohort of up-and-coming early '70s filmmakers, alongside Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. The young direc-

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tors helped each other succeed, passing scripts back and forth and working together on casting. According to Scorsese, De Palma “took him under his wing” when he went to Los Angeles, introduced him to Robert De Niro and even gave him the script for *Taxi Driver*. “He is a warm, passionate, compassionate person who, I think, puts on a tough front,” Scorsese told *People*.

What set De Palma apart was his focus on horror and his “operatic and balletic” camerawork — “simultaneously

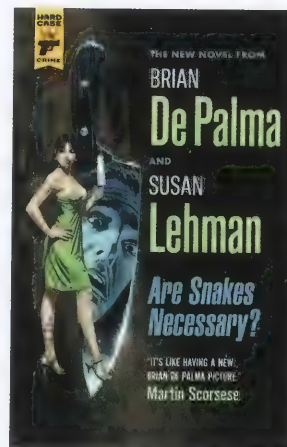
## MEET THE MASTER

Join CCT on Thursday, March 26, to hear Brian De Palma '62 discuss his new book and his career with film professor Annette Insdorf. Register at [college.columbia.edu/events/event/evening-brian-de-palma-62](http://college.columbia.edu/events/event/evening-brian-de-palma-62).

voluptuous and incisive,” as critic Michael Sragow wrote in *Film Comment* in 2016. The name “De Palma” on a film conveyed a sense of menace to viewers, but it also signaled the presence of an artist’s vision. As De Palma’s directing choices evolved, cannily alternating between large-scale studio assignments (*The Fury*, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*) and more indie “passion projects” (*Home Movies*, *Raising Cain*), the indelible films that movie buffs know — among them *The Untouchables*, *Dressed to Kill*, *Blow Out* and *Carlito’s Way* — got made. De Palma, as one cinematographer has said, is simply “one of the greatest visual filmmakers around.”

With its visual scene setting and crime-ridden twists and turns, the novel benefits from De Palma’s cinematic sensibility. Writers like Bret Easton Ellis admire its pacing and style (“a fast-moving page-turner”). But let’s leave the last word to De Palma’s old friend Scorsese. Of this novel, he says, “You have the same individual voice, the same dark humor and bitter satire, the same overwhelming emotional force. It’s like having a new Brian De Palma picture.”

— Rose Kernochan BC’82



## Chapter 34

A ging is not an entirely pleasant affair. One day Connie was the beautiful Bryn Mawr graduate. The whole world was open in new ways. Doctor, lawyer, Indian chief. Connie had choices her mother never did. Bryn Mawr pushed hard for certain career choices. Connie’s roommates were both going to medical school.

But medicine was not a viable option: Connie didn’t give a hoot about radiology or endoskeletal whatever. Numbers weren’t Connie’s strength, so banking made no sense. Anyway, her father had money, so work wasn’t an issue.

Frankly all Connie really wanted was to get married. She could raise children — and maybe horses — and read great books and have a garden and make wonderful meals and plan nice vacations.

And oh, she’d love her husband, ambitious, fierce-minded, fair, strong, successful. She’d care for a fabulous house, assemble it in good taste, and have nice parties and interesting friends (from good families). Connie couldn’t tell anyone any of this. It would be too embarrassing.

That pretty much left law school as the sole viable option.

Columbia was a bit of a shock when she first arrived. But Connie stuck to her dorm, outlined her cases and generally applied herself. She met Lee in her second year and paid far less attention to torts and contracts after she did.

“Bring your lunch and meet me by the river. The 114th Street entrance. At Riverside Drive. You’ll recognize me. I’ll be looking for you.” That’s what the note in Connie’s book bag said. She found it there one morning after criminal law class ended. Connie remembers the note vividly, each syllable.

Professor Simon had called on the handsome dark-haired man next to her. “Mr. Rogers, can you tell us please, what is the issue in *Brady v. Maryland*?”



Mr. Rogers had exactly no idea. "Professor Simon," he said, "I have exactly no idea what the issue is in *Brady v. Maryland*."

No one had had the guts to say anything like that before. The class cheered. Lee Rogers came as close as a person could come to taking a bow without actually moving.

Unimpressed, Professor Simon called on Connie Salzman, who quite matter-of-factly delivered the perfect analysis of the Brady rule of exculpatory evidence case. Of course she knew the issue. She'd spent the weekend in her room studying, going through the cases over and over until they practically extruded through her skin.

Connie brought her lunch (a frisée salad) to the river with some trepidation. Who was this smooth-talking Lee Rogers and why did he want to have lunch with her?

Rogers, who'd brought a hot dog for his lunch, spread mustard over the bun with his finger. He produced a blue-and-white bag with the Columbia mascot (a lion) on it.

"Roar," he said, pulling out a bottle of sparkling pink champagne. "Matches the sunset. And your smile."

He pulled two plastic champagne cups from the bag and started to pour.

"First things first," he said, and took a bite of his frank. "Yum."

Connie smiled. She was charmed.

But she couldn't help herself. "Do you know what's in those?"

"Whatever it is, it sure tastes good," Lee smiled.

"Have you ever visited a hot dog factory?"

Rogers' eyes twinkled. "Was that on the college tour? I didn't pay much attention after Butler Library."

Connie loved it that he was playful. She giggled — something about him brought out the coquette in her.

"They mix pork trimmings with pink slurry. That's what you get when you squeeze chicken carcasses through metal graders and blast them with water."

Admittedly, Connie's idea of coquettishness was a little odd. She hadn't had much practice. But Rogers was not put off. "How about the bun?" he said.

Connie liked the way he teased. "This is before the bun! Listen. They mix the mush with powdered gunk — preservatives, flavorings, red coloring all drenched in water and then squeeze it through the pink plastic tubes where they cook and package them."

"Now the bun?"

For the life of her, Connie couldn't figure out why she was talking about hot dogs. Something about Rogers made her nervous. The talk was like a tic. But he was having fun. And she couldn't help but enjoy herself.

"Right. Now the bun. I don't think you're taking this very seriously."

"I'm very serious about my hot dogs. Also I'm serious about you, Miss *Brady v. Maryland*. You look very delicious yourself."

He said this straight out of the blue. Connie blushed. "Hey! There's some pink slurry flushing across your face."

Connie blushed more. And giggled. What was it about this guy?

Rogers lifted his glass. "To exculpatory evidence." They took a quick sip from their cups. Rogers moved closer. He smelled Connie's sweet (expensive) perfume. "Mmmm. Delicious, yes! And no plastic packaging?"

Connie loved this. So much so, that to her enormous surprise, she heard herself say, "Only one way to find out."

"And what would that be?"

Connie lightly brushed her lips against his. "Any sign of plastic packaging?" she said.

"Nope!" said Rogers. He kissed her again shyly. "What do you think? Will I survive that hot dog and all those toxins?"

"I hope so," said Connie and she did. "Take my breath away," she added. And he did.

A courtship began. Connie helped Rogers outline his cases and prepare for exams. He took her to jazz concerts at divey bars downtown. She got all As. He got offers from the top firms.

Rogers clinched matters when he took Connie to Paris right after graduation (she graduated third in her class; he didn't rank) and proposed to her.

He did not want to be without this fine-looking, straight-thinking woman. He needed her. He loved her too. There was no question: Connie would be the perfect wife.

Connie was over the moon.

You probably want to know what the sex was like then. I'm sorry, Connie Salzman was not the type of girl who talked about things like that. She liked Lee Rogers. A lot. Let's leave it at that. He made her laugh. She did things with him she couldn't imagine.

They were married six months later. Lee had a job at a big Philadelphia firm. Connie had a job at a bigger Philadelphia firm. The job was not interesting. Even slightly.

Connie did not have to worry much about any of this for long. Two months after she started work, she discovered to her delight — true, actual and complete delight — that she was pregnant. The trouble with Lee might have started around this time.

Connie was dizzy with happiness about the pregnancy and might have lost track. Dinner might have slipped; Connie absolutely did not plan the spring trip to the Alps that year. That she remembers. Lee went instead with a bachelor friend from his firm.

Connie would never have found out about the stewardess he met on the flight. She wasn't a suspicious spouse or anything like that. But she phoned



Lee in the Alps — the connection was bad and she thought she'd misheard the hotel operator; she asked for Mr. Rogers and the operator said, in thickly accented English, "I em so sorry, Ma'am. Meester and Meesus Rogers just check out now."

Connie actually said, "No. Not Mr. and Mrs. Rogers. I'm looking for Mr. Rogers. I am Mrs. Rogers!"

"I em so very sorry," said the voice on the phone. "So very sorry."

Connie was actually confused and wondering why on earth the operator was so very sorry when the awful truth dawned on her.

Lee's homecoming was not so pleasant as previous ones. Connie did not pick him up at the airport, but was instead waiting for him when he got home.

"Lee. We have to talk," she said.

Rogers had never seen such a stern look on Connie's face. Pregnancy, he thought, makes animals of all of us.

"Who were you with in the Alps? I know you weren't alone. I know you were with a woman. Lee. What. Are. You. Doing?"

Lee Rogers was on his knees so quickly Connie thought he'd had a heart attack. It took him just a few tearful moments to tell her, choking back tears, that yes, he was with a stewardess, someone he'd met on the plane.

He was scared of being a father, he said. Just scared in a way he'd never been before. "I lost my mind, Connie. I was so afraid. I wanted to be a man for you, a strong man who wasn't afraid, and I wanted to be a strong father for our baby, and Connie, Connie," he choked back more tears, "can you forgive me? Ever? Oh god, Connie! Please help me to be worthy of you — your love, our baby."

This could've been the end of all that Connie had ever dreamt. She wasn't going to let it slip quickly out of hand.

Determined to save herself, her baby, and the family she dreamt of, Connie got in the car and drove to Bucks County, to the small country house her father had given her and Lee for a wedding present.

Connie had planted a little garden there and it was there that she would find the peace she needed to survive this glitch on the long road she knew would lead to a happy ending for her, for Lee, and for their unborn child.

It was high spring. Connie knew just what she'd do. She'd plant a cherry tree like the ones that had just blossomed in the capital. Sweet, pink and fragrant, the trees represented all of nature's promise.

Trees with sour fruit last longer — up to two hundred years. As a statement about her conviction and the promise of this pregnancy, Connie chose one of these.

She loaded the sapling into her car, ferried it to Bucks County and planted it before she even went inside the house.

Twenty years later, worried about herself and her odd behavior, Connie drives the familiar road to Hillside Lane. There, in front of the house, the first thing she sees is the cherry tree she planted all those years ago.

Now fully mature, it blossoms magnificently over the drive. For Connie the tree is a horrible sight. Each bright pink bloom is a reminder of that time, of what happened with the stewardess.

What happened happened — a long time ago. And then it was over. Lee said it was.

And it was.

And it was awful and unspeakable to have accused him again, to have impugned his integrity with her crass inquiry about the video girl.

It was weak to have questioned him. Rogers made a promise all those years ago: if Connie could forgive him — and she could, she did — never again would he violate their vows or give her cause to worry, ever. A simple exchange: absolution for fidelity, forever.

And she had sunk to questioning his veracity, his honesty. She had violated their trust.

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*Rogers produced a blue-and-white bag with the Columbia mascot (a lion) on it. "Roar," he said, pulling out a bottle of sparkling pink champagne. "Matches the sunset. And your smile."*

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She goes to the shed. On a neat pegboard hang all the tools you'd need to build a new world — hammers, drills, saws. Connie surveys the tools and, at last, sees the hatchet she is looking for.

She picks it up. Weaving just a little, she carries the hatchet to the front of the house and plants her size 5 feet onto the earth and then she takes a wild swing — not one, in fact, but six — and she does not stop then but continues to hack, chop chop chop, at the twenty-year-old tree that bears with its fruit the bitter memory of Lee's twenty-year-old sin.

The tree falls. The crash is loud. Connie is satisfied. Gone is the tree that memorializes Lee's one and only transgression. She will not question him again.

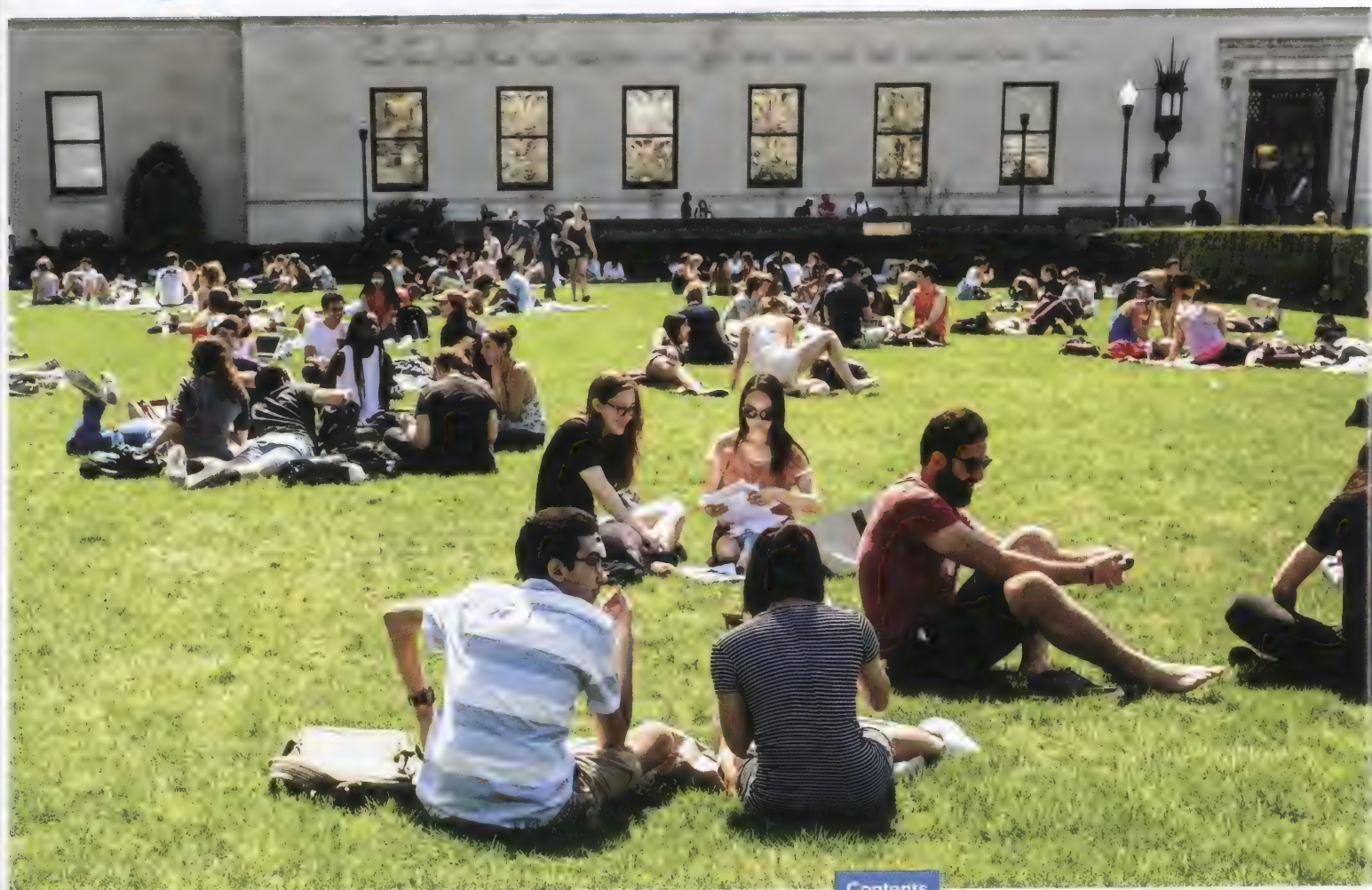
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From the book *Are Snakes Necessary?* by Brian De Palma and Susan Lehman. Copyright © 2016, 2020 by DeBart Productions, Inc.





# alumni news



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# Appreciating the Gospel of the Core

By Michael Behringer '89

As we continue to celebrate the Core Curriculum's Centennial this academic year, I'm enjoying hearing Core Stories from fellow alumni. It never ceases to amaze me how the Core not only was a defining moment of our undergraduate education, but also remains relevant in the lives of so many of us.

My most memorable Core experience was studying the Bible. That might seem like a surprising choice in the context of my 12 years of Catholic school education, including time as an altar boy. I read the Bible every day in class and of course on Sundays, from the judgment of Adam and Eve in Genesis to the final judgment of mankind in the Book of Revelation. It was a text I felt I knew well when I began Lit Hum.

When it came time to talk about the assigned readings in class, I was confident I had it well covered. I was sure I would stand out, dazzling my professor and classmates with my deep knowledge and insight.

Yet there we were — a group of 20 or so students: Jews, Christians, Muslims, atheists and agnostics, all approaching this with different perspectives, beliefs and backgrounds. A sacred text to some. A collection of stories to others. A source of inspiration and comfort. A source of division and discord.

Suddenly, the Bible was entirely new to me.

We discussed. We debated. We argued. Yet, the conversations were respectful, the tone polite. It didn't matter that we didn't agree on ideas; we did agree on engaging in a civil discourse.

That's when one of the most essential aspects of the Core resonated with me. It presents a grand opportunity to take a text, a philosophy or a belief that is so intimate to oneself and to see it through the eyes of another. And in so doing, see it again for the first time.

Columbia College gave me a great gift in the form of the Core, and it's a gift that I've treasured throughout my life. Its values are ones I talk about often with our children, as my wife and I try to teach them that no one has a monopoly on ideas or truth, and that what we think we know might not always be right.

Regrettably, public discourse today seems dominated by partisan rancor. We seem to be very good at speaking forcefully, but we are less good at listening. The reports from many other campuses are not much better; we hear of student bodies that shut down free debate rather than embrace a vivid exchange of ideas.

The Core seems to be needed now more than ever.

Our Core Curriculum is wonderfully unique in higher education. No other college has the same commitment to having the entire student body study the same enduring texts, music and art, in a small seminar setting that is guaranteed for every student.

I am delighted that the College continues to distinguish itself this way, and that its education sets students up for a lifetime of mean-



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ingful engagement with the world. That's why it's so important that we ensure that the Core is not only available for future generations, but also that it continues to adapt and thrive in the years to come.

Producing the Core requires an exceptional commitment of resources, and its scale grows each year. This type of experience is only possible through alumni support, and the College needs our continued investment to strengthen the Core for future students. Please join me in making a gift in April to the "1919 Challenge" ([college.columbia.edu/alumni/columbia-college-fund](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/columbia-college-fund)) in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Core. If 1,919 donors make a gift in April, an anonymous donor will make a \$100,000 gift to the Columbia College Fund.

You can also participate in the College's day-long Core Centennial Century Celebration on campus on Saturday, April 4. And make sure to join the #corestories memory project by sharing your Core experience on [core100.columbia.edu/community](http://core100.columbia.edu/community); more than 400 stories have already been contributed!

ROAR!

Michael Behringer

The Story of Adam and Eve by the Boucicaut master, circa 1414.





SANCHA MCBURNIE

## Making Schools Safe for Girls of Color

By Rebecca Beyer

**M**onique W. Morris '94, GSAPP'96 was answering questions from the audience after a screening of her new film, *PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, when one of the young women featured in the documentary — a survivor of commercial sex trafficking — took the microphone and started to field queries herself.

"It was great," Morris recalls. "Part of what we wanted to do with this film is demonstrate that there is an incredible resilience in these girls. With the right kind of intervention and guidance, they can come back and be community leaders. That's exactly what she's done." By providing such assistance, Morris, an expert in how black girls are affected by racial and gender disparities in the education system, has empowered her research subjects to become experts themselves.

*PUSHOUT* is Morris's first film, based in part on research and first-person interviews she conducted for her 2018 book of the same name. Morris learned that black girls in high school are six times more likely than white girls to be suspended and two times more likely to receive corporal punishment in states that still allow

it. They are also three times more likely to receive one or more in-school suspensions, four times more likely to be arrested, three times more likely to be restrained and three times more likely to be referred to law enforcement.

"There are different ways of doing this," says Morris, co-founder and president of the National Black Women's Justice Institute. "We don't have to treat our young people this way."

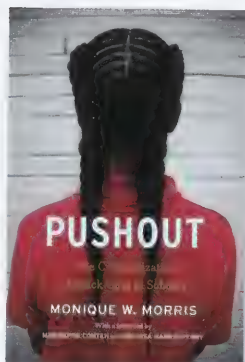
What makes Morris's work unique is that she doesn't just point out a problem — she also offers solutions. Her approach has led to powerful partnerships; in September, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.), who, as a Boston city councilor worked with Morris on previous research in that city's schools, hosted the premiere of *PUSHOUT* at the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference. And in December, Pressley and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) introduced federal legislation based on Morris's research. Named for the film, the Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-

Morris at the October 10 screening of *PUSHOUT*, hosted by the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality.





based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma (PUSH-OUT) Act would establish \$2.5 billion in grants to support states that commit to banning discriminatory practices, invest \$2.5 billion to shore up the civil rights work of the U.S. Department of Education and create an inter-agency task force to eliminate the disparate impacts of school disciplinary policies on girls of color.



Morris's other recent work includes a 2019 book, *Sing a Rhythm, Dance a Blues: Education for the Liberation of Black and Brown Girls*, which highlights educators and administrators who are successfully exploring non-punitive responses with girls of color. Taken together, the books, film and legislation "are really about, how do we begin to shift a public narrative so we recognize that hurt people hurt

people?" Morris says. "We need to facilitate healing as opposed to deepening harm through punishment. Young people who are acting out in school are acting out because there's been a deep disruption in their lives."

Even when teachers and school officials recognize that reality, there is a tendency to point fingers — at poverty, at parents, at historical oppression, Morris says. But that's too passive, she argues. "We've got to move past the blame game," she says. "We have a responsibility to try to make things better right now."

Morris says she first recognized that responsibility when she was a student at the Architecture School working on her thesis about

the impact of residential juvenile correctional facilities on black community development. Some of the girls she met were survivors of sexual assault, as Morris herself is.

"I realized that many of the girls dealt with conditions similar to my own life," she says. "The critical difference was education. I didn't have to fight anymore because I could write."

The San Francisco native also recalls deep conversations about historical narratives with the DeWitt Clinton Professor Emeritus of History Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69. She credits them as formative to her experience as one of the founding student staff members of the Institute for Research in African American Studies, which was created in 1993 by Professor Manning Marable.

"I will always be grateful for his guidance and mentorship," she says of Marable, who died in 2011.

Morris calls efforts to raise awareness about black girls' treatment in schools "freedom work." If education is an antidote for criminalization and incarceration, then "our efforts should be to keep girls in school, not to find ways to take them out of it," Morris says. "This is fundamentally about facilitating freedom."

**Rebecca Beyer** is a freelance editor and writer who lives in Boston.

## More from Morris

Monique W. Morris '94, GSAPP'96 will be the keynote speaker at Columbia College Women's 2020 Signature Event, Thursday, April 2, at Casa Italiana. *PUSHOUT* will be screened, followed by a discussion led by Mignon R. Moore '92, chair of the sociology department at Barnard. Sign up online: [ccwssignatureevent2020.eventbrite.com](https://ccwssignatureevent2020.eventbrite.com). You also can read an excerpt from *PUSHOUT* at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct).

# Kasia Nikhamina '07 Keeps Brooklyn Rolling

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**B**iking in New York City can seem daunting: Traffic, weather, pedestrians and road conditions conspire to make for a sometimes-harrowing ordeal. But for **Kasia Nikhamina '07**, co-owner (with her husband, Ilya Nikhamin) of Brooklyn's Redbeard Bikes, it's all about freedom — once you have the perfect bike, you'll forget the rest.

Situated on DUMBO's busy Jay Street, the brightly lit shop is a cyclist's paradise. Bikes hang from floor to ceiling along exposed brick walls, while the wooden floors house neat rows of bikes; accessories like seats and helmets are dotted throughout the store. Says Nikhamina, "We're going for a down-to-Earth, welcoming place. There are a lot of people who feel excluded from cycling, and we want to be a place where you can walk in and feel comfortable no matter your knowledge or background."

Redbeard is rare in that it specializes in both custom bike builds, made by Ilya, as well as off-the-rack sales and bike repairs for more casual riders. While Ilya focuses on builds and fixes, Nikhamina focuses on the day-to-day operations — "I keep the place running," she says with a laugh. Opened in November 2012 by Ilya, demand quickly outpaced the one-person operation and

within the first year, Nikhamina had left her finance job to jump into the small business world. "The growth is funny; it's hard to reflect on it," says Nikhamina. "So much has happened — people just kept coming, and DUMBO definitely has exploded. There's so much demand."

Early on, Nikhamina and her husband started offering community-focused activities like neighborhood rides (which are now led by "Redbeard ambassadors" and run every Saturday and Sunday, March–October) to build out the biking community in the neighborhood. By the end of 2013, Redbeard had expanded into its current, larger space from a smaller shop down the street.

Nikhamina first became interested in cycling in high school, when Ilya bought her her first bike (the couple met as classmates at Stuyvesant H.S.). "New York wasn't very bike friendly at the time," she says. "My parents were worried about my safety, but it was a way of asserting my independence. Having a bike I thought, 'Now I'm free. I don't have to rely on anyone to drive me anywhere.'"

Outside of the bike shop, Nikhamina, who majored in literature, is wrapping up work on her first book, a memoir, in her spare time; her experiences at Redbeard feature heavily in the work. She's



thrilled about the city's growing support of cyclist culture and credits Citi Bike, as well as the improved infrastructure around bike lanes, as part of a change that has led to an explosion of biking enthusiasm in New York during the seven-plus years Redbeard has been open.

That explosion hasn't come without difficulties, though, as the realities of running a growing business mean that the husband-and-wife team need to always be on hand at the store, and staffing needs often outpace the supply of workers. "There aren't as many people working with their hands, and definitely not with bicycles," Nikhamina says. "It's getting safer, easier and more commonplace to ride — but who's going to serve all those people?"

Biking in New York City is clearly here to stay, and Nikhamina is a big part of that culture shift. "In the city, we live in such close quarters, and we don't have a lot of chances to feel free," she says. "We're always corralled somewhere; we're in a line to get coffee, we're crowded in the subway. When you get a bike, yeah, there's traffic, but you have control. You connect with your animal self, you reconnect with your inner child."



Husband-and-wife team Kasia Nikhamina '07 and Ilya Nikhamin in front of their DUMBO store, Redbeard Bikes.

## Richard Maimon '85 Practices Design Diplomacy

By Rebecca Beyer



Architect Richard Maimon '85 at Dilworth Park in Philadelphia, one of the many large-scale projects he has worked on with his firm.

**R**ichard Maimon '85 was 14 in 1977, the year Dilworth Plaza opened across from Philadelphia's City Hall after nearly 10 years of construction. Because he passed through the transit hub frequently on his way to Center City to run errands with his family, he was excited to see the final product.

But he was disappointed; the plaza was not very welcoming, consisting of endless granite. "I thought, 'Is that all there is?'" he recalls. "It suffered from a design that was very much defensive. The public was presented with walls and barriers and steps."

Maimon was not alone and, decades later, when stakeholders got together to transform the eyesore, he was in a position to help. A partner at Philadelphia-based architectural firm KieranTimberlake, Maimon was part of the team behind the plaza's renovation. The new Dilworth Park includes two 20-ft. glass pavilions that serve as entrances to the underground train station, a large lawn and a fountain fed with purified rainwater that becomes an ice-skating rink in the winter. Since the new four-acre space opened in 2014, Maimon says he's visited every chance he gets.

"My kids roll their eyes," he says. "But they're teenagers."

Maimon says Dilworth Park is one of the great things he's worked on during his career at KieranTimberlake, which he joined full time in 1989. But there are many others. He is also heading up his firm's work on 181 Mercer, NYU's multi-purpose building for athletics facilities, performing arts venues, academic classrooms, and student and faculty residences; more recently he helped complete a master plan for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

One of his biggest projects — the new U.S. embassy in London — got some unexpected publicity when President Trump refused to attend a ribbon cutting in 2018, calling the building a "bad deal"





(the approximately \$1 billion project was funded entirely by proceeds from the sale of other U.S. government properties). The final design — a transparent crystalline cube — includes grey water recycling, a pond that filters and stores stormwater, and interior gardens modeled after U.S. ecosystems. Maimon says a major challenge was figuring out how to convey democratic values such as openness and transparency while providing maximum security.

“Through a set of carefully considered design moves, you can achieve multiple goals that originally might have seemed to be contradictory,” he says. “And that’s what we did.”

Maimon knew he wanted to be an architect even as a child; he loved “great spaces” like Philadelphia’s Wanamaker’s department store building. But he credits his liberal arts education at the College with preparing him for the parts of his profession that require negotiation and persuasion.

“You learn to be critical and thoughtful and rigorous, to understand other people’s points of view,” he says. “Architecture is as much about verbal communication as it is about the visual and technical side of making buildings. Everyone needs to feel like they’re being heard, and you need to respond to them.”

One lesson stands out: In 1984, when Maimon pinned a design he had drawn on transparent paper across two tack boards, Professor Robert A.M. Stern ’60 called out the aesthetic misstep, asking Maimon if he wanted to be remembered “for a crack running down the middle” of his drawing.

“While my first response was laughter, I quickly realized the lesson,” Maimon says. “How you present your work is as important as the content.”

*Rebecca Beyer is a freelance editor and writer who lives in Boston.*

## Isaiah D. Delemar ’93 Preserves the Past for the Future

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN’09

When **Isaiah D. Delemar ’93** was young, he noticed a trend while watching Sunday news programs: Many of the world’s movers and shakers had law degrees. Now an Attorney-Advisor for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Delemar has become one of those influential people — in 2018, he was the team leader and lead lawyer on multiple projects that preserved significant sites in

American history, most notably Camp Nelson National Monument, in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birth and life homes, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Camp Nelson was a Union Army depot during the Civil War. A recruiting ground for new soldiers and escaped slaves, as well as a refugee camp for escaped women and children, it became one of the largest Union training centers for African-American soldiers. “Camp Nelson is unique,” says Delemar, “because it is an under-told story of freed men fighting for the freedom of slaves and their families.” Its designation also

marked President Trump’s first use of the Antiquities Act (a power that gives the President the authority to declare national monuments by public proclamation).

Delemar’s second big win for 2018 was facilitating the National Park Service’s acquisition of the Atlanta home where Dr. King

was born and lived for the first 12 years of his life; previously owned by The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center), it is now guaranteed perpetual federal protection and resources. As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, the home features free daily guided tours led by National Park Service rangers and is a popular park attraction.

“Putting these three properties in federal hands ensures they will be preserved for the current generation and future generations,” Delemar says.

While at the College, Delemar was active in the Charles Hamilton Houston Pre-Law Society and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, serving as VP of both — he points out that Charles Hamilton Houston (the first African-American to graduate from Harvard Law School), billionaire philanthropist Robert F. Smith BUS’94 (whose donation to the National Park Foundation facilitated the acquisition of King’s birth and life homes) and King were members of Alpha Phi Alpha as well. After graduation, the native New Yorker headed south to law school at UNC-Chapel Hill and later joined the U.S. Department of the Interior. “Really, no day looks exactly alike,” he says of his work. “You have high-profile matters like these, which have many stakeholders, including the White House. But the average day could be dealing with clients, reviewing contracts, or opining on real estate issues or resolving boundary disputes. Each day is a potpourri.”

Delemar sees the law as a tool for social progress, and these recent acquisitions exemplify that work, as the new designations will promote awareness and drive visitors to these sites of important African-American history. “The National Parks are a treasure,” he says. “The ability to preserve cultural and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people and for future generations is an awesome, awesome mission.”





# bookshelf

## Bridging Differences Through the Bard

By Jill C. Shomer

In the current American moment, it is hard to say we are “united states.” While writers, historians and pundits offer opinions on how we might bridge our cultural and political differences, **James Shapiro** ’77 suggests we look to the Bard.

In *Shakespeare in a Divided America: What His Plays Tell Us About Our Past and Future* (Penguin Press, \$27), Shapiro, the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the College and a renowned Shakespeare scholar, looks at the ways in which people reveal themselves through interactions with Shakespeare’s work. Shapiro writes, “his plays are rare common ground.”

We all study Shakespeare at some point; the majority of American junior high and high schools expose students to *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*. Shapiro believes that Shakespeare’s work can help make sense of controversial issues in our nation’s history. “It’s frightening how much darkness, how much prejudice, how much resentment has inadvertently been revealed through America’s engagement with Shakespeare,” he says.

The book draws cultural through lines to landmark Shakespeare productions, films and musicals that have featured hot-button topics such as immigration (*The Tempest*), interracial marriage (*Othello*), class warfare (*Macbeth*), domestic violence (*The Taming of the Shrew*), same-sex marriage (*As You Like It*), adultery (*Hamlet*), gender identity (*Twelfth Night*) and, in numerous instances, the Other.

“One of the things I’ve explored in Shakespeare’s comedies is how many of them end with exclusion,” he says. “Shylock is left out at the

end of *The Merchant of Venice*, Malvolio is left out at the end of *Twelfth Night*. Characters create community by whom they leave out, ostracize, stigmatize. The comedies become a historical road map of whom we are now leaving out and stigmatizing. They become a way of revealing things that are not so great about this great country.”

Astonishingly, Shapiro never took a Shakespeare course as an undergraduate. Instead he would go to London every summer (after quitting a different temp job every August 1) and glut himself on Shakespearean theater. “I’d see 25 plays

in 25 days,” he says. “At that age, you’re really open to powerful art, and it was like a drug — I loved it. I was interested in how Shakespeare’s work came to life onstage and spoke to the cultural moment.”

The Brooklyn native attended grad school at the University of Chicago, then joined the Columbia faculty in 1985. “I learn a lot

from teaching,” Shapiro says. “It’s important to hear what young people have to say because there’s a break between one generation and the next that’s quite sharp right now. The classroom is one of the few places where you can bridge that divide, or at least try to hear and see a little bit more clearly how generational interests diverge.

“I need to mix it up with students, I need to push and be pushed back,” he continues. “It’s a very New York style.”

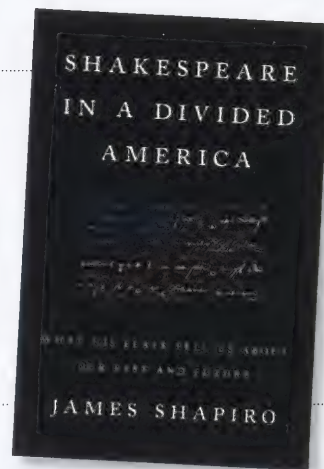
In the late aughts, Shapiro realized that after decades of Shakespeare scholarship he knew very little about American history. In an effort to connect the dots, he started teaching undergraduate and graduate seminars on the American response to Shakespeare, and wrote a 2012 anthology for the Library of America.

*Shakespeare in a Divided America*’s narrative culminated for Shapiro after the 2016 election and a controversial theater production the following summer. The Public Theater staged *Julius Caesar* at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park and director Oskar Eustis chose to portray Caesar as a modern-day Trump lookalike. Shapiro, the Shakespeare scholar-in-residence at The Public, was at nearly every performance and witnessed protesters attempting to attack the actors and disrupt the show. His book opens and closes with discussions of what the production meant for free speech and artistic freedom. “Everything that I’ve been trained to do and have lived through has led to this,” he says.

“The danger of being a professor is getting stuck in time; you always have to be open to what’s happening at a particular moment,” he says. “[Writing this book] forced me to confront things that are harder to define, like racism and discrimination — who admits to being racist, or to being against someone with a different sexual orientation or gender? This book allowed me to get behind that wall. You’d be amazed what people will admit to through Shakespeare that they will not admit otherwise.”

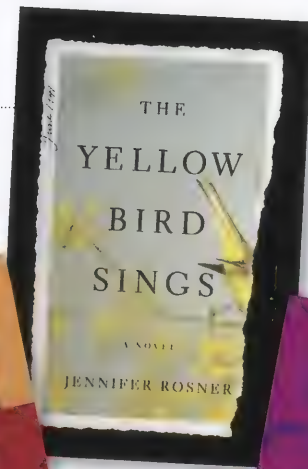
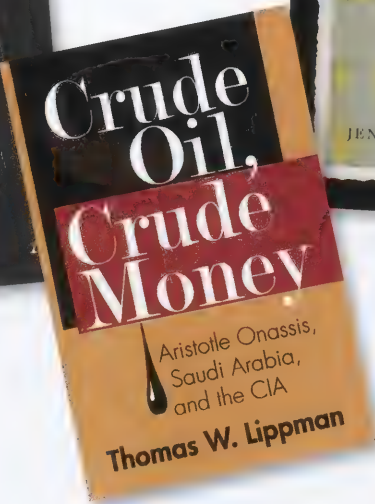
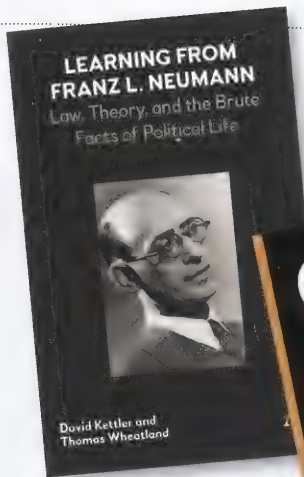
Becoming a professor was an easy career choice for Shapiro. Both his parents were public school teachers, brother Michael teaches in the Journalism School, sister Jill BC’80, GSAS’95 is a senior lecturer in ecology, evolution and environmental biology at the College and wife Mary Cregan GSAS’95 teaches in the English department at Barnard. Son Luke DeCoursey Cregan ’19 was awarded a 2019 Eureka J. Kellett Fellowship and is studying at Oxford; Shapiro hopes he will follow in the family’s faculty footsteps.

Shapiro says that for him, a nice thing about Shakespeare is that it straddles work and play. In addition to teaching, he’s currently contributing to several theatrical productions and will soon embark on a book tour. “It’s all-consuming,” he says. “There are really not enough hours in the Shakespeare day!”



MARY CREGAN GSAS'95





**Learning from Franz L. Neumann: Law, Theory, and the Brute Facts of Political Life** by David Kettler '51 and Thomas Wheatland. The first English-language, full-length study of Neumann, a highly regarded Columbia professor and exile scholar who played a prominent role in efforts to break down the divide between political theory and the empirical discipline of political science (Anthem Press, \$99, Kindle version).

**Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journal** translated by Elizabeth Bellak GS'55. The widow of George M. Bellak '57 brings to life the diary of her late sister, who was murdered by the Gestapo in 1942; the book became a *New York Times* bestseller (St. Martin's Press, \$27.99).

**Cesare: A Novel of War-Torn Berlin** by Jerome Charyn '59. The latest from Charyn, an author of more than 50 works of fiction and nonfiction, is a literary thriller and love story, "born of the horrors of

a country whose culture has died, whose history has been warped, and whose soul has disappeared" (Bellevue Literary Press, \$26.99).

**Crude Oil, Crude Money: Aristotle Onassis, Saudi Arabia, and the CIA** by Thomas W. Lippman '61. Lippman, who has written about Middle Eastern affairs and American foreign policy for four decades, sheds light on a little-known story about the collision of nationalism, money, celebrity and oil (Praeger, \$37).

**The Cambridge Introduction to British Fiction, 1900–1950** by Robert L. Caserio '65. An examination of the work of more than 100 writers in a variety of genres, including detective, spy, gothic, fantasy, comic and science fiction; Caserio also brings new attention to lesser-known writers he thinks merit increased attention (Cambridge University Press, \$29.99).

**Biotech Juggernaut: Hope, Hype, and Hidden Agendas of Entrepreneurial Bioscience** by Stuart Newman '65 and Tina Stevens. The authors recount their encounters with biotechnology in scientific, legal, policy and advocacy settings, and give broad historical context to biotech and its societal implications (Routledge, \$42.95).

**Chip Rock and the Fat Old Fart: A Heartwarming Adventure** by Michael Daswick '79. The story of

a comic and poignant friendship between 23-year-old orphan Chip Rock and Deacon, a 50-something, socially outcast meat cutter (Bowker, \$28.95).

**My Creative Space: How to Design Your Home to Stimulate Ideas and Spark Innovation** by Donald M. Rattner '79. Rattner, a noted architect, shares practical techniques for shaping a home that will boost your creativity, and includes photos of interiors from around the world (Skyhorse, \$29.99).

**The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul** by Mark Binder '84. The fourth book in Binder's "Life in Chelm" series features stories about the importance of exercise for seniors, maintaining your identity and the joy of eating good food (Light Publications, \$29.95).

**What You Do Is Who You Are: How to Create Your Business Culture** by Ben Horowitz '88. Horowitz, a leading venture capitalist and modern management expert, explains how to make your company culture purposeful by spotlighting four historical models of leadership and connecting them to modern case studies (Harper Business, \$29.99).

**The Yellow Bird Sings: A Novel** by Jennifer Rosner '88. As WWII rages in Poland, a mother hides with her

young daughter, a musical prodigy; to soothe the girl and pass the time, the mother tells her a story about an enchanted garden (Flatiron Books, \$25.99).

**Banshee** by Rachel DeWoskin '94. DeWoskin's lead character has a full, sane life and all the trappings of middle-age happiness, but when she gets a terrifying diagnosis, a lifetime of being polite and putting others first ignites in her a surprising rage (Dottir Books, \$16.95).

**Little Weirds** by Jenny Slate '04. This collection of personal essays gives insight into the writer, actress and stand-up comedian's "strangely funny and tender, magically delicious mind" (Little, Brown and Co., \$27).

**Characters Before Copyright: The Rise and Regulation of Fan Fiction in Eighteenth-Century Germany** by Matthew Birkhold '08. The first in-depth study of the history of fan fiction — literary works written by readers who appropriate preexisting characters invented by other authors (Oxford University Press, \$70).

**Who Put This Song On?** by Morgan Parker '10. The first novel from poet Parker, about a black teenage girl searching for identity when the world around her views her depression as something to be politely ignored (Delecorate Press, \$18.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_bookshelf](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)



# classnotes



LEON WU '18

The return of spring on campus is cause to celebrate — and *Alma Mater* has brought balloons for the occasion!

## 1940–49

*Columbia College Today*  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

From Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz '42: "I began as class correspondent in 2006 to replace my lifelong best friend, Dr. Herbert Mark '42, who died after open-heart surgery. Now, after 14 years of submitting my reports to *CCT*, I am 97, and will hope to enjoy reading *CCT* for a few more years to come. Here are my current notes, which are mostly reminiscences about our past years at Columbia.

"Meals: Breakfast at Columbia Chemists — OJ, donut, coffee. Lunch — sandwich at The West End. Dinner — New Asia Chinese Restaurant on Broadway; it served a full dinner for 85 cents.

"Great professors (many): Boris Stanfield (Russian history); Gottlieb Betz (German literature, Faust); Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920 (Shakespeare, poetry of Hardy and Yeats); Joseph Wood Krutch (drama and theater; founder of Sonora Desert Museum in Arizona); Dwight Miner CC 1926, GSAS'40 (history and modern American literature); and J. Enrique Zanetti (inorganic chemistry and a virtuoso in conducting experiments during his lectures).

"Fourteen members (maybe more?) of our Great Class of 1942

were killed in WWII. Among them were two of my good friends, Lt. Philip Bayer '42 and Lt. Roger Dounce '42. Phil was a Marine hero, killed at Peleliu. He was a star halfback on our football team. Roger was an Air Force pilot in the Pacific,

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.





and was shot down in combat. He was an inveterate pipe smoker, wrote critical articles for *Jester* and *The Columbia Review*, and had a great sense of humor.

"Sports: Football — when Columbia upset a great Army team 21–20 at Baker Field in 1947, I was in the Army on active duty in occupied Japan, as a captain and medical officer in the 27th Infantry Regiment. The West Point officers in the regiment were very upset at this score, but I retained their friendship for several years after my discharge from active duty. On November 20, 1982, I was at Baker Field with **Gerald Green '42** and our friend **Ray Robinson '41** as Columbia lost to Brown 35–21 in what was the last game played at Baker before it was demolished and replaced by our current Wien Stadium."

From CC'47 former class correspondent **Bertram Sussman '47**: "It's been more than eight years since some of you attended the memorial service in New York for my wife, Shirley GSAS'46. I thank everyone who came to celebrate her and our 62 and a half years of marriage.

"I'm 96 and a half, and recently went into home hospice at an assisted living center north of

citizen program.) So, when I returned to Maui, I put our house on the market and rented a cottage in Kula, on the slope of Mount Haleakalā, from my voice teacher, Pamela Polland. Pamela had been a major behind-the-scenes player in the Los Angeles and Northern California music scenes of the '70s and '80s. So, I joined a roster of students that included Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt and Bonnie Raitt.

"Despite this flirtation with vocal stardom and my auto-romance with my new Toyota Prius, at 89, living alone was getting difficult. Then, uncannily, in fall 2012, Jan Bonaparte, Joe Bonaparte's widow, showed up at my door. Jan convinced me to move to an assisted living facility in Kihei, on Maui's almost-always 'sunny side.'

"On June 1, 2013, she helped me put on a big 90th birthday party at one of Maui's best Aloha country restaurants. People came from the mainland and from the island. I never imagined enjoying myself so much without Shirley. Yet seeing all these people travel thousands of miles to celebrate my birthday made me decide I had to return to the mainland.

"With Jan's help, in September 2013, I moved to the Brookdale

## COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| BC    | Barnard College   |
| BUS   | Columbia Business School                                    |
| CP    | Pharmaceutical Sciences                                     |
| DM    | College of Dental Medicine                                  |
| GS    | School of General Studies                                   |
| GSAPP | Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  |
| GSAS  | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences                        |
| HN    | Institute of Human Nutrition                                |
| JRN   | Graduate School of Journalism                               |
| JTS   | Jewish Theological Seminary                                 |
| LAW   | Columbia Law School   |
| LS    | Library Service   |
| NRS   | School of Nursing   |
| PH    | Mailman School of Public Health                             |
| PS    | College of Physicians and Surgeons                          |
| SEAS  | The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science |
| SIPA  | School of International and Public Affairs                  |
| SOA   | School of the Arts  |
| SPS   | School of Professional Studies                              |
| SW    | School of Social Work                                       |
| TC    | Teachers College  |
| UTS   | Union Theological Seminary                                  |

I will be able to practice law until I am 99) and a family office; 2) I have been married to Alice Linker Friedland for 63 years; and 3) We have three children and six grandchildren. One of my granddaughters is in the College now.

"My time at Columbia provided me with an education (about the world in which we live and how we arrived here), a profession and a whole coterie of friends who became a substantial part of my family's social life.

"Judy and **Mort Lindsey '44** were very close friends — we vacationed together in Paris, London and elsewhere and celebrated many holidays together. When they moved to California, we socialized with them every time we went to visit our daughter in California and when they came to New York.

"Kathy and **Marshall Mascott '48** were also very close friends, and we spent many hours together while they lived in New York, just across the street from our residence. I remember my boys and I playing touch football with Marshall and his son Chris in Central Park. When he and Kathy moved to Europe we visited them numerous times, in London, Baden-Baden and Switzerland. Whenever he and Kathy came to this country, we would also spend time with them.

"**Cyrus Bloom '47**, **Al Burstein '47**, **Ed Costikyan '47**, **Ed Cramer '47**, **Fred Freund '48** and **Billy Kahn '47**, and their wives, as well as many other Columbia friends, formed part of our social circle. I would like to hear from any classmates."

## 1950

### REUNION 2020

JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

**Dr. Dudley F. Rochester PS'55** writes: "I'll celebrate my 92nd birthday in May, 70 years after graduating from Columbia College.

"While there I had Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932 for CC and Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920 for Humanities. In January 1948 a Pakistani man joined the class, and soon expressed criticism of CC for ignoring cultural contributions from Islamic scholars. One Friday this

## Core Haiku



Now in my 90s,  
I am thankful for the Core,  
which opened my mind.

— The Very Rev. John C. Beaven '49

Seattle in Stanwood, where my oldest grandson, Evan, and his young family live. My entire immediate family, except my son, Richard '76, live within an hour's drive.

"During a recent visit, Richard (and my brother, **John Weaver '49**) urged me to send a note to *CCT*, my protests notwithstanding. (What news did I have to share?) After Shirley died, I was in a hurry to leave the Manhattan apartment we had taken up four years earlier and return to Maui, where we had retired after selling our business, RPM, in 1999. Shirley and I had made many friends on Maui. (When we turned 80, a local gym used us as models for a flyer promoting their new senior

Stanwood Assisted Living Center, where I can frequently see my great-grandkids, Josh (8) and Lily (6). And my terrific caretakers and support team have made my 'pursuit of happiness' all the more real.

"I hope that more of you will send your stories to *CCT*. As Walter Cronkite used to say, 'And that's the way it is,' in Stanwood, Wash., on December 26, 2019."

[Editor's note: *CCT* is sad to report that Bertram passed away on February 20, 2020.]

From **Lawrence N. Friedland '47**, **LAW'49**: "(1) I am still working and I have two offices — a law office (when I complete my current continuing legal education requirement



student and Professor Barzun had a heated argument. On Monday, Barzun told the class that he'd thought deeply over the weekend, concluded that the student was correct and that he, Barzun, would change henceforth. Now that was a lesson!

"After graduating from P&S, I had my internship and residency in medicine at Presbyterian Hospital and a research fellowship in Dr. Andre Courmand's laboratory at Bellevue Hospital. After two years active duty in the Army, I began my academic medical career, first at Bellevue, and subsequently at Harlem Hospital. In 1976 I became head of the pulmonary medicine division at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

"I've been retired for 25 years, and spent much of that time as a volunteer for the American Lung Association and the Episcopal Church. My advice for a good retirement is 'Always have a learning curve ahead.'

"Lois Boochever BC'49 and I married in June 1950. We've lived for the last 16 years at Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, a retirement community in Charlottesville. As our physical capacities have diminished, we no longer travel, but we remain active here at WCBR.

"We have several intellectual groups, and in the past year I've given the talks 'Health Care in the U.S.,' 'Religion & Science' and 'The Brain as Mind.' I'm scheduled to give another one in May, 'Artificial Intelligence.'

"I thank Columbia College and P&S for instilling in me a sense of intellectual curiosity that persists to this day."

*CCT* received a loving remembrance from Hindy Livia Bergovoy, widow of **Philip M. Bergovoy**. She writes of Phil, who died on February 22, 2019: "I had a charmed life with him for almost 37 years. Just as important, he had a positive and special influence on everyone who knew him: his children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, students, fellow teachers, alumni and business associates ... not least of all me. We each can, and many have, testified and eulogized about how he encouraged and empowered each of us.

"If you knew Phil, you know he loved his time at Columbia. Even as CC'50 had naturally dwindled lately, Phil and his Columbia friends continued to keep in touch, sharing their happiest Columbia memories. It was clear they appreciated the privilege they earned — the nonpareil education at Columbia College.

"To simply listen to Phil and his Columbia compatriots conversing, to have heard their calm, intelligent, respectful and loving interchanges, will forever remain a uniquely joyful and gratifying memory.

"Can you imagine how proud Phil was when our granddaughter Kiera Allen '22 chose Columbia for her tertiary education? And imagine how proud he was when he discovered she was published in the 2018/2019 edition of *The Morning-side Review*.

"Between the mid-1950s and early 1970s, Phil taught at North Shore H.S. and various other schools on Long Island. 'Coach' (as many called him) had amazing impact on countless students in those years. Later, he naturally developed a deep and loving relationship with many of his former students. First mentor, later friends.

"After Phil's death, I discovered letters written as far back as 1954 from students and parents that thank him for the positive influence he had on his students' lives.

"In short, I could say without conceit, his influence has made the world a better place."

Hindy also shared Phil's obituary from *The Wounded Lion*, Vol. XIV, Issue 1:

"This past February we lost a strong advocate for ROTC and a person of many talents. He was an entrepreneur, teacher, mentor, coach, patriot and proud Columbia grad. Phil entered Columbia College

when he was 15 years old during WWII. He wanted to fight for his country against the tyranny the world was facing so he enlisted in the Navy. When it came to light that he was under the required age to join the armed services, he received an honorable discharge.

"In 1950 he graduated from Columbia and was commissioned through the NROTC program as a Marine Corps officer and assigned to active duty. In 1952, he encountered a medical condition that cut his marine duty short and he was honorably discharged. The same year he graduated from Columbia University's Teachers College.

"In the 1960s, because of his genius in probabilities and to help support his family, Phil developed, wrote and published booklets about horse racing systems. He also taught and coached at various Long Island high schools.

"Phil retired from teaching and coaching in 1970 to devote more time to his family and his successful publishing business. He dedicated full time to entrepreneurship. Throughout the '70s [and] until his death, he successfully managed portfolios for his family and business associates.

"In September 1981, Phil's first wife, Jean Bergovoy, succumbed to cancer at the age of 46. The following year, he met his future second wife, Hindy Livia Bergovoy.

"He continued to successfully run various businesses, from nightclubs to retail food establishments. Without specific knowledge of an industry, but with the keen understanding of finance, Phil continued to succeed in these ventures, supporting up to 25 families.

"At the turn of the 21st century, Phil devoted most of his time to managing his family's portfolios. He and his wife relocated to Sarasota, Fla. His dedication to his former students and business colleagues was such that many continued and continue to express their gratitude for his inspiration and empowerment. As a board member of the Columbia Alliance for ROTC he constantly provided input and proposals for how to approach the university. Despite failing health, he made every effort to contribute his thoughts and ideas to the Alliance. He never lost his affection for the Marine Corps.

"Phil is survived by his three children, Richard Randolph Bergovoy,

Kenneth Bergovoy, and Catherine Jean Allen; his five grandchildren, Kate Anne Bergovoy, Michael Bergovoy, Kiera Allen, Sean Allen, and Connor Allen; and his wife, Hindy Bergovoy.

"He was laid to rest with a military honor guard at the Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida.

"Semper Fidelis."

**Patrick J. Barry** died on December 27, 2019; *CCT* was informed by his daughter Judith Barry BC'84.

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you. Please send your news to *CCT* by writing to either of the addresses at the top of the column.

## 1951

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

Classmates would like to hear from you! Please send your news to *CCT* by writing to either of the addresses above.

## 1952

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Irvin Herman, who notes he is a "philosopher, sage and sophisticate due to CC and Humanities," writes: "The *CCT* article on the history of the Core Curriculum ['First Class,' Winter 2019–20], I am sure, has resulted in a flood of comments. I must add mine. I came from a good but not very enlightened high school in a small town in the Midwest. To illustrate this point, for a book report in an English class, I somehow read Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Must confess my innocence. I asked my elderly, spinster teacher what the Scarlet A meant. After a lot of her verbal fumbling and mumbling, I still didn't know. Can't remember when I became wise and sophisticated enough to announce, 'Aha.'"

"With that sort of academic background, you can imagine my confusion in my first CC class to discover that there was a cause and effect between ideas and events.

Stay in  
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:  
[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).





Left to right, David Filosa '82; Ambassador Maria Theofilis, the permanent representative of Greece to the UN; Bernd Brecher '54; Arthur Delmhorst '60; and James Gerkis '80 at a Columbia University Club Foundation event on November 6.

And we were actually reading and thinking about those ideas — what they meant and how they were influenced and influenced the world, then throwing in the humanities to tie imagination and creativity into the mix. Wow!

"This leaves me with one of my favorite memories of undergraduate days ... sitting in one of those large booths at The West End, drinking beer with **Howie Hansen**, Don McLean '51 (football players, mind you), Frank Manchester '51, **Mal Schechter** and James 'Tex' McNallen '51 energetically discussing Plato and Aristotle.

"And to top off this marvelous intellectual growth, when I saw *The Music Man*, I knew what Professor Harold Hill meant when he sang (politically incorrectly), 'I hope, I pray for Hector to win just one more A ... the sadder but wiser girl for me.'"

From Dr. **John Laszlo**: "When I was a medical student at Harvard in 1954 I scrubbed in on a pioneering valve operation. So when I was interviewed in preparation to receiving a new type of artificial heart valve last August, I explained to the young surgeon that I had my finger in the human heart many years before he was even born! But, unlike my early experience, when the chest was opened and the heart cut open, the new procedures are all done by inserting catheters into the groin and threading a new valve into place via an artery. Then they implanted a pacemaker directly into my heart via the femoral vein. I walked that same evening, and had no marks on my chest, but my groin looked like I had been hit by a truck. All is well and I exercise daily, but I wanted to

underscore the tremendous progress in this aspect of medicine, along with many others.

"Three short stories from Columbia, which happen to involve football players whose names I do not remember (but some of you might). Professor Gilbert Highet had a popular Humanities course that started promptly at 11 a.m. *Spectator* came out just before 11 a.m. and a student was sitting in the front row when Highet entered. He always insisted on starting class on time and was angry at seeing a newspaper in his face in the front row. So he took out his lighter and set the paper on fire; it burst into flames and shocked the reader — and the rest of the class.

"Professor Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920 had similar feelings about late starts in his philosophy class. A short, rather obese and visually impaired man, he always had it in for football players. So when one of our classmates sauntered in, Edman stopped talking until the student found a seat. Edman accused him of being a tardy, lazy football player. When told that this student was not a football player, Edman apologized and said, 'You must think that I am a son of a bitch.' To which he was answered, 'Yes, that had occurred to me.' I might not have that story exactly correct, but it is close.

"Finally, our advanced organic chemistry class was to be given a special visiting lecture by Professor Linus Pauling, a two-time Nobel Prize winner. Pauling furiously began to draw equations all over the board, giving the molecular strain between atoms. He wrote in tiny

Greek symbols to illustrate the alpha strain at this intermolecular distance, then this is the beta strain, and the writing became tiny and illegible beyond the front row. Finally, a booming voice came from the upper row of the auditorium, 'What about the eye strain, Professor?' It would have been a forgettable lecture but for this repartee, and the prof had no sense of humor!"

We also heard from Dr. **Arthur E. Lyons**: "The slowly thinning San Francisco contingent of the superannuated but enthusiastic Columbia grads from the '50s/'60s continues to get together at regular intervals: Dr. Bob Blau '53, Dr. Allan Jackman '53, Joel Armstrong GSAPP'65 and I enjoy a Chinese lunch every month. It costs a little more than the \$1 lunch my classmate, the now-lost Ralph Morgan, and I used to get at Wing Hing, a tiny dive now long gone from Upper Broadway, that gave us a somewhat exotic respite from the dreary cafeteria fare at the John Jay dorm. But now, as retired doctors (except for Joel), we can afford even San Francisco prices.

"Our undergraduate days at Columbia seem very remote, 60-plus years past, but our conversations are reminiscent of what we experienced then in Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920, C. Wright Mills and Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920's CC and Humanities sections. I left Columbia after three years to go to medical school under the exigency of the Korean War, missing my senior year. I have always regretted it.

"I practiced neurosurgery for 40 years, on the teaching faculty of UCSF School of Medicine. Despite the stresses, I enjoyed every minute of it. Along the way I got involved in medical politics and was president of both the San Francisco Neurological Society and the San Francisco Medical Society. I could not convince either of my sons to leave California for college. I'll have to leave it for my teenage granddaughters to elect to continue the Columbia tradition started by my father, Dr. Alfred L. Lyons CC 1924."

A brief note from **Geoffry Brown** GSAS'53: "I have launched a website that contains 120 dramatic monologues on 'Quintessential Americans,' some of which I have performed around New England and are available for download: [www.geoffrybrown.net](http://www.geoffrybrown.net)."

Classmates would enjoy reading about you, too! Please send your news to *CCT* by writing to either of the addresses at the top of the column.

## 1953

**Lew Robins**  
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**Michael I. Sovern** LAW'55, who was Columbia's 17th president, 1980–93, and was the Chancellor Kent Professor of Law at the Law School, died on January 20, 2020. He was 88. After graduating first in his class from the Law School, Michael soon became the youngest tenured professor (28!) in Columbia's modern history while on the Law School faculty. He later was dean of the Law School, executive VP for academic affairs and University provost before becoming Columbia's president.

Read more about Michael in this issue's "Obituaries" section.

Please take a moment to share your news, life story or favorite Columbia College memory in these pages, and have a very enjoyable spring.

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
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OK, destiny's darlings, welcome back, Class of Destiny — let's start with some 2020 numerology! While a few of us might be a year or so older or younger, most will mark the *big 88* during 2020, 66 years after our not-so-big 22 in '54. Contemplate that and then take these numbers to your astrologer, your bookie and your broker. And let me hear about your results.

As I began to create these quarterly Class Notes for this issue, we received a call about our granddaughter Sydney, a senior at University of Michigan (spoiler alert — she's fine) who, with four friends in a Chrysler Ram, was struck by a car in which a couple was fighting, causing her Ram to roll over several times, ending off the road upside down. All five were buckled up and even the back seats



had air bags; the Ram's roof did not collapse. Pedestrian good Samaritans helped get them out, emergency room examinations revealed no serious injuries and all five were back in their dorms. Miracle of miracles! Syd had a mild concussion; we've spoken to her several times and she appears to be in good hands with the school's medical department. Younger brother Jared is a freshman at UM, now joined for several days by our daughter-in-law, Sharon. (The pictures of the wreck are shocking; God was looking out for all of us.)

**Henry Black** shares, "While Moira, my wife, and I don't have much to note, the interesting stuff is the work of our three daughters, their husbands, eight grandchildren, our first great-granddaughter, four dogs and three cats. All are very kind and helpful to Moira and me; I need help living with chronic back pain and scoliosis."

Henry's oldest daughter is a poet and the development director for a nonprofit association of writers and university creative writing programs; her husband has developed programs focusing on writing skills across university departments.

Henry's middle daughter has created a business finding and seating audiences for TV shows such as *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, and various Comedy Central shows. Her husband works with her on the computer backup for some of the shows.

"Our youngest daughter," Henry writes, "right out of college got a job with a caterer providing food around the clock to the crew and principals of TV and movie productions in NYC, where she got to know various members of the crews, but found the electrical and lighting work most fascinating ... [she] got the crew to take her on and train her. She was a hard worker and gained a good reputation. Subsequently, she worked on a number of major movies, including *The Cider House Rules* with Michael Caine. Her husband has been working steadily on movies and a TV series, now as a first assistant director."

Indeed, Henry's pride in his daughters — all three Barnard alumnae — is well documented.

Breaking news: I have just been informed that the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons's Dean's Advisory Committee on Honors &

Awards has chosen Dr. **Henry Buchwald** PS'57 to receive the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Alumni Association's Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievements in Medical Research at its alumni gala dinner on Saturday, May 16. Henry was our class valedictorian and delivered his valedictory 2.0 at our 65th anniversary reunion last year. As professor of surgery and biomedical engineering and the Owen H. and Sarah Davidson Wangenstein Chair in Experimental Surgery, Emeritus at the University of Minnesota, he just keeps going and going.

Yay, Henry!

**David Bardin** LAW'56, the class's once-and-forever advocate and lobbyist for good causes, reported just before the New Year on some extraterrestrial phenomena that helped him in his most recent successful endeavor. He writes, "In 2019, I pictured a hopeful, covenantal rainbow (see Noah's story, Genesis, chapter 9). Later, in December, I saw my first fogbow out our window overlooking Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C. (try googling 'fogbow'). And throughout 2019, I encountered fellow alumni in some very positive contexts."

During 2019, as in prior years, David submitted written testimony to Congressional appropriators and lobbied for adequate funding for the U.S. Geological Survey's geomagnetism program. He urged an increase from \$1.888 million to \$4 million per year. The new House subcommittee chair in 2019 (Betty McCollum, D-Minn.) heard oral testimony from private citizens, including him, as well as from government officials, and the House approved \$4.114 million. The Senate then approved \$3.388 million.

David enlisted lobbying assistance from my wife, Helen, for Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Joseph P. Josephson, an Alaska state leader, who reached out to Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee; and, relatives of David's wife, Livia, who are constituents of and communicated with Senate committee members Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). Others helped reach out to Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and ranking member Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), John Neely Kennedy (R-La.), Cindy

Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.).

"The final outcome," David says with a sigh of relief, "was good news: appropriation of \$4 million." A PDF of David's basic lobbying memo is available.

On the home front, David writes, "On November 24, Livia and I came back to Brooklyn for the lovely wedding of our oldest grandchild, Benjamin Bardin '12, to Rebecca Miller at The Picnic House in Prospect Park. Other alumni at the wedding included Benjamin's parents, Jacob E. Bardin SEAS'83, SEAS'87 and Donna Waxman Bardin SW'88; his paternal grandfather (me); and his bride's paternal grandmother, Stephanie Asker (née Mattersdorf) BC'55.

"Also there were two sons of our epidemiologist **Leon 'Levi' Gordis** (1934–2015), Daniel Gordis '81 and Elie Gordis '83, LAW'86, and their wives, Elisheva and Avra. And, while in Brooklyn, I took family members to visit the sidewalk near 15 Clark St. in Brooklyn Heights where — on a sunny Sunday afternoon on December 7, 1941 — I heard, and still remember, a stranger's agitated cry that Pearl Harbor had been attacked."

At the end of October, our late classmate **Irwin Bernstein** BUS'55 was memorialized at the dedication in his name of a part of Columbia's fencing facility in Dodge Fitness Center. Steve Buchman '59, a close friend who worked with Irwin on fencing matters for several decades and who, with Irwin's widow, Liela, was a speaker at the dedication, alerted us to this occasion. Classmates, you remember: Irwin was captain of Columbia's 1954 undefeated championship team, which was also the NCAA champion. He went on to be president of the United States Fencing Association, the United States Fencing Foundation, and the Varsity C Club, and received numerous recognitions and awards. Steve, in his comments at the naming event, cited Irwin's dedication to fencing and Columbia saying that "... today is also reflected in his role in helping create the closest integration of a women's and men's athletic team as exists here at Columbia and perhaps in college sports in the United States."

**Leo Bookman**, who played baseball for Columbia and won an Ivy League batting title, in his after-college life became a talent agent and partner in an agency that

represented some superstars of the wide world of show business. His childhood closest friend — along with Tony winner Phyllis Newman — was Jerry Herman, the phenomenal composer-lyricist of *Hello, Dolly!* and other Broadway hits during its Golden Age of musicals.

Leo writes, "When I joined the William Morris Agency after college, it represented **Saul Turteltaub** LAW'57, and he and I would occasionally meet. I also represented Gerald Green '42, who wrote the book and screenplay for *The Last Angry Man* and *Holocaust* for television. One day someone told Gerald that I played baseball for Columbia, and after that he would call me every week to discuss Columbia athletics. He was a great alumnus and a wonderfully gifted writer."

Back to numerology, Jerry Herman died just before the New Year at 88; he worked for decades composing on his piano, which has 88 keys.

Agent Richard Seff writes about Stephen Sondheim's musical *Merrily We Roll Along* (in which I invested): "You could imagine his song 'Old Friend' being written about Herman, Newman and Bookman, for they were indeed three talented youngsters who discovered show business at early ages and moved to New York where they thrived."

Leo, your classmates are proud of you — take a curtain call!

**Arnie Tolkin** continues to be a moving target, his most recent report having been received over the New Year holidays. "My wife, Barbara, and I are now off the Argentine coast cruising to the Falkland (Malvinas) islands in the South Atlantic. We are rounding Cape Horn for the fourth time (we fell in love with the Chilean fjords and the Andes mountains in Southern Chile). May 2020 be a healthy, happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year for us all."

**Alvin Hellerstein** became a great-grandfather to Eden Malta, born in Israel in December and named after his late wife, Mildred Hellerstein. Judge Alvin reports that he "also celebrated the 21st anniversary of my appointment as United States District Judge. I also have a new hip, courtesy of the doctors at the Hospital for Special Surgery. The rest of my body and mind seem to be holding up."

Congratulations, new GGF, and many happy returns.





Members of the Class of 1956 enjoyed the October class lunch. Left to right: Peter Klein, Ralph Kaslick, Jerry Fine, Bob Sirotty and Buz Paaswell.

An imaginative architect, Donald Rattner '79 (husband of Gabby Rattner BC'80 and son-in-law of Joel Belson GSAS'64 and Abby Belson BC'56, GSAS'59), has published a how-to guide book, *My Creative Space: How to Design Your Home to Stimulate Ideas and Spark Innovation*. I keep it at my desk. It claims to contain "48 science-based techniques" to help blow your mind, while being insightful, philosophical, human, and even humorous. The illustrations and charts are gems. Don obviously paid attention during his Core classes.

Farewell again gents, some good news this month, some sad, some even miraculous, some like *Days of Our Lives*, my wife's favorite soap opera. 'Till the Summer issue, call, write, email, and/or text so we can all share the good and the not-so. Continue to be well, do well, and help cure the world.

Excelsior!

## 1955

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

Gerald Sherwin  
181 E. 73rd St., Apt. 16B  
New York, NY 10021  
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It's a new year! The monthly class luncheon, held in Faculty House, featured attendees **Anthony Viscusi**, **Allen Hyman**, **Don Laufer** and **Alfred Gollomp**. The Dean's Scholarship Reception took place in

early February; it was a huge success, bigger and better than previous years. This fits in perfectly leading up to our 65th reunion, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6, if you can believe it. Meetings have been held, mapping out events such as Mini-Core Classes and Saturday's class dinner.

We hope that a lot of classmates will attend events over the course of the weekend. Even though some of the guys won't be able to make it, we've heard reactions from classmates throughout the country, which have been quite positive.

**Jeff Broido** will try to make events leading up to reunion, and **Norm Goldstein**, who is based in New York now, will attend, I hope. One of the key events will be in the New York Public Library, in addition to the class dinner.

From the West Coast, Southwest and New England, we hope classmates near and far will attend part (if not all!) of the events. **Ezra Levin**, **Howard Lieberman**, **Eliot Gross**, **George Christie**, **Mort Civan**, **Ted Ditchek** and **Fred Dziadek** — we hope to see you there. Another attendee of the monthly lunch is **Bill Epstein**, and we hope to see **Jim Larson**, **Bob Brown**, **Ralph Wagner** (from Wellesley, Mass.), **Geysa Sarkany** (from Centerreach, Long Island), **Dave Sweet** (from his hometown of Warwick, R.I.), **Jack Kirman**, **Jerry Pomper**, **George Bahamonde** (from Heidelberg, Germany), **Lew Mendelson** and **Marty Molloy** (in Palo Alto, Calif.).

The Winter 2019–20 issue featured **Jack Stupp** in the "Lions" section, with some of his artwork on CCT's website ("Print Extras").

We have two corrections: **Herb Cooper** is not a resident of Newburgh, N.Y. **David Gordon** is a

resident of California, not Westchester County. Your correspondent stands corrected.

Keep up the good work. If there is anything I can do for anyone in the class, let me know.

Love to all! Everywhere!

## 1956

**Robert Sirotty**  
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Had a great telephone conversation with **Murray Watnick** of Enfield, Conn. Also a great day in October at Faculty House on campus, when the class last met for lunch. **Peter Klein**, **Ralph Kaslick**, **Jerry Fine**, **Buz Paaswell** (who continues to teach) and I had a wonderful time.

Starting to get serious about planning for reunion number 65, only 18 months away (as this is written, shorter as it is read; Thursday, June 3–Saturday, June 5, 2021). As of this writing, our next luncheon was planned for January and was to include a visit from Eric Shea, senior director, alumni relations, to help us plan.

I heard from **Jonas Schultz**, in California. When we next see him, he will have a new hip.

**Steve Easton** writes: "It is hard to realize that I have been in North Carolina for more than three years, and have experienced three hurricanes in that time. Someone said it would not be easy leaving New York City, and they were right."

"I've managed to spend more time than I would like still working in my real estate-related business, even though I tell the world I am retired. Somehow, with the work ethic we were all brought up with, it looks like very few of us really are retired — there is always something to do."

"I spend a good amount of time in New York City and in Mexico, so that I can say when I am in North Carolina I am visiting my residence. In North Carolina, I get to see **Bob Lauterborn**, who has stopped most of his travels to China, but seems to get in a substantial amount of travel time to other locales. Last year, **Bob**, **Jordan Bonfante** and I (with our respective wives/significant others) were able to visit."

"It is nice that when I am in New York, **Bob Sirotty** and **Danny Link** schedule our class lunches so that I am able to join y'all (Southern for you). When in New York, I also visit with **John Censor**, who is still busy working at his corporate training business."

"In Mexico, I get to relax, play a lot of golf in warm weather and wonder why I am not better at Spanish. Plans for 2020: 1) Looking forward to getting older gracefully, 2) looking forward to our 65th reunion planning and 3) hoping that I do not read too many of our classmates' obituaries."

"I am also planning to become more active, as probably our class's only remaining Columbia College Fund class agent, for fundraising requests, including planned giving. Please at least hear me out."

"In summary, I think our classmates continue to be like a good red wine: We get better as we get older. Remember that, **Ron Kapon**. Hope you enjoyed reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it. Let's plan for a great 65th reunion."

I also report the death on September 28, 2019, of **Charles Bostic**, of Morrisville, N.Y., a vocation counselor for the Office of Vocational and Education Services for Individuals with Disabilities. Charles was a Navy veteran, discharged in 1959 as a lieutenant. He was an avid golfer.

Keep in touch, guys. There's a lot to tell and talk about.

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
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On the way home from American Bar Association meetings in San Diego in October, yours truly stopped off in Austin, Texas, for a visit with **Steve Kornguth** and his wife of 62 years, Peggy.

Steve is professor of neurology at Dell Medical School, University of Texas, and senior research scientist in kinesiology at UT. He is also professor emeritus, neurology and biomedical chemistry, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

I attended two of Steve's lectures — grand rounds neurology and a



review of neuropathology for neurology residents. A grand round is a conference held weekly or monthly in medical school departments to discuss a particular clinical condition (e.g., multiple sclerosis). The aspects covered include medical history of the patient, presenting signs and symptoms, current patient status, laboratory test results, treatments including drugs and finally prognoses or post-mortem results.

Peggy is doing well. Steve says their "time together is a blessing and [a] joy." She is a Wellesley grad, Class of '57, with a Ph.D. in physiological chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, and is now retired.

Arthur Rifkin passed away in NYC in July 2019, reports Arthur's cousin E. Michael Geiger '58.

CCT would like to share a connection made between two high school and College classmates that came about through Class Notes. After seeing Ed Weinstein's Class Note in the Winter 2019–20 issue, Rhonda Donatova SEAS'66 (who attended Columbia under the name Robert Donat), reached out to share some high school memories. She wrote, "Dear Editor, I would like to send a greeting to Ed Weinstein, Class of '57. He is noted in the alumni news of your recent CCT. We were classmates in high school and I have not been in contact since. I am so pleased to see someone I remember from the past appear in CCT and I would ask if you could kindly convey to him my best wishes for a happy Hanukkah from an old classmate, since I do not have his email address nor his home address.

I was known as Robert then. He and I would compete for the best grades in math classes. We were both pretty good at it. Thank you. I wish you and staff all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year."

The CCT staff passed the message along to Ed, who responded, "Rhonda (or Bob as I then knew you): Thanks for the message and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and for health and happiness in the New Year. This message is a stunner, as I have never received a message from a member of the Class of '53 at Far Rockaway H.S. As I recall, we were both eclipsed in math by Abe Weitzberg, another '53er, who matriculated at MIT. You may also have known my wife, then known as Sandra Eisenberg FRHS '54. She even majored in math at Skidmore College, from which she graduated in '58. Nice to hear from you."

## 1958

Peter Cohn  
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petercohn1939@gmail.com

Homecoming 2019 was the source of great pleasure for long-suffering followers of Columbia football. Among the more than 10,000 Light Blue faithful (and about 100 or so Penn fans) at the Baker Athletics Complex were several members of the Class of 1958, including Ernie Brod, Bernie



Members of the Class of 1958 cheered on the Lions at the 2019 Homecoming football game. Left to right: Ernie Brod, Bob Waldbaum, Peter Cohn and Bernie Nussbaum.

Nussbaum, Bob Waldbaum and me (see the above photo). The 44–6 romp was the most lopsided Homecoming win in Columbia history and, along with the overtime win against Harvard two weeks later (the first win over the Crimson in 15 years), represented the highlights of what was otherwise a disappointing season. Our team was only competitive in three of its seven losses. However, the fact that the Homecoming win was the third in Coach Al Bagnoli's first five years at Columbia was especially noteworthy. In fact, in my 65 years of following Columbia football, I cannot recall a similar five-year Homecoming record. As I write this column, the basketball season is upon us but hopes for a winning record are slim. The season began without two of our projected starters, and a difficult out-of-conference schedule didn't help. I hope when Ivy League play starts in mid-January we will see an improvement.

Warren Opal '59 writes about the passing of his friend Harlan Lane GSAS'58 on July 13, 2019: "Harlan was a classmate of mine at both Stuyvesant H.S. and Columbia, as well as a fellow Tau Epsilon Phi brother. As noted in Wikipedia, Harlan was the Matthews Distinguished University Professor of Psychology at Northeastern University in Boston and founder of the Center for Research in Hearing, Speech, and Language. He received both a B.A. and an M.A. from Columbia in 1958 and subsequently a Ph.D. in psychology from Harvard in 1960 and a *Doc. Des Lettres* from the Sorbonne in 1973. In 1991 he was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

"Harlan's research was focused on speech, deaf culture and sign language. Although not himself deaf, he became an often-controversial spokesman for the deaf community and a critic of cochlear implants. He wrote extensively on the social

construction of disability and stated: 'Unless deaf people challenge the culturally determined meanings of *deaf* and *disability* with at least as much vigor as the technologies of normalization seek to institutionalize those meanings, the day will continue to recede in which deaf children and adults live the fullest lives and make the fullest contribution to our diverse society.' In recognition of his research and advocacy regarding these issues, Harlan received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of the Deaf in the United States, the International Social Merit Award from the World Federation of the Deaf and numerous other awards including the Commandeur de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, the highest level of the academic honor given out by the French government."

In other news, we are pleased to announce that Joe Dorinson was inducted into the Brooklyn Jewish Hall of Fame by the Brooklyn Jewish Historical Initiative in November.

Way to go, Joe!

Reminder: The class lunch is usually held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). Email Tom Ettinger if you plan to attend, even up to the day before: tpe3@columbia.edu.

## 1959

Norman Gelfand  
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Dear classmates, I hope that this finds you well and that you enjoyed the winter, perhaps by escaping it. Let me encourage you to let your classmates know what you are doing.

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!

CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.





**Steve Trachtenberg** reports, “I was delighted to survive the heart attack that I had in London while you all were at the 60th reunion. I had been planning to be with you on Morningside Heights. I have been healing since — operation, recovery, post-cardio exercise program, etc., and can report that I recently returned to London and came home again. So, while I am still in repair mode, a little weak, and I tire easily, I am back. Thank you to all who sent get-well greetings from reunion and since. Hearing from classmates helped me during those dark nights alone at St Bartholomew’s Hospital. The United Kingdom’s National Health Service care was excellent. As a non-Brit, I had to pay. I did. Despite that, the hospital food was as bad as the medical care was good. I lost 20 lbs., and I ate so many bananas that when I got home I had excess potassium. Anyhow, all good that ends good. Prognosis bright.”

Thanks for the good news. Steve was also featured in *CCT*’s “Take Five” — here is a link: [bit.ly/2OCIK4O](http://bit.ly/2OCIK4O). The column also contains a link to Steve’s reunion speech.

mon many friends in the business from what is now 60 years past! However, I started my undergraduate years expecting to aim for law school and so I completed a four-year degree in American history without getting to know Ira, or other aspiring musicians in our class. In those days it was easy to take lessons and instruction privately, as I did, with a guy in the New York Philharmonic — as a senior I played in the Columbia Orchestra, led in those days by Howard Shanet ’39, GSAS’41.

“I spent most of my career with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, but in the summer seasons just after graduating from Columbia I played in the Aspen Music Festival — I believe it was in 1960 that I was in the orchestra there for James Levine’s first opera conducting (Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Op. 60). Ira must have played dozens of performances with Levine, including that very opera, one of Levine’s favorites.

“As far as my Columbia memories are concerned, I had enormous respect for the entire faculty I was lucky enough to meet, but Professor Justus Buchler GSAS’39 made an

(on April 29, 1965) that displayed a tender paternalism one might not expect of a confirmed bachelor.

“He wrote, ‘Prince Benjamin Immanuel needed no introduction. Nor Gloria. In the snapshot, both speak for themselves. The Prince chose his parents most wisely; an awesome decision by the way, when one thinks of the billions of Suns and Planets in the Milky Way alone. To Gloria, it should go without saying: My admiration and best wishes. There is magnanimous envy also on my part ... if I know you, and I think I do out of sheer affection and mountains of respect, I do suggest that you take a leaf out of your son’s bright and gleaming book where all things worth knowing and feeling are freshly written, radiating from the eyes and every gesture. See to it that the current brand of “certification” doesn’t cramp him through the formative years. Time enough for Columbia or Yale, after that.’

“In 1967 I left Yale to begin my academic career at The University of British Columbia on the west coast of Canada (to the delight of my Canadian wife), which ended my visits to NYC and Professor Casey. A few years after my dissertation was officially approved and the doctorate awarded, I sent Casey a copy of the abstract and acknowledgments, the latter underscoring the fullness of my debt to him: ‘Finally, I wish to express my profound gratitude to Professor William C. Casey — brilliant and beloved mentor — to whom I owe eternal thanks for whatever I may do that is good and productive in my life.’

“Casey responded (on May 1, 1974) in his sublimely gracious style with the last of his letters (owing to my own neglect) that I was always so elated to receive: ‘Your acknowledgment to myself, as your undergraduate colleague, must be modestly construed, since in all this, unlike a British Don, I have so little to be modest about. What you and I did together, we did in an undergraduate crowd where only mutual empathy could substitute for the tutorial role. You excel in empathy and diligence, and your genes accounted for the rest. But thank you, Bob, just the same. Your generous acknowledgment was much cherished.’

“As the years went by, I thought of Casey and his nonpareil style

of pedagogy only in the resting moments between the trials of raising a family, learning the habits and history of my adopted country, and engaging in the battles of tenure and promotion as I strained to elevate myself on the professional ladder of careerist scholars, a facet of Academe that Casey privately scorned. In 1978 I received dismaying notice of a memorial service for Casey to be held at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Our great teacher was felled at 87 by cancer of the larynx, robbing him of the verbal majesty that was the source of his renown. My reasons for not attending the service were all too trivial, cloaked in circumstance, and my absence remains my deepest regret. In the years since, I have tried to recapture fond memories by reading *The Real World of William C. Casey*, authored in 1987 by several of his students of an earlier generation who sought to lay out the essence of some of his most heralded lectures. I also participated on a panel organized for the 50th reunion of the Class of ’59 on the subject of ‘Remembering Professor Casey,’ and now I have written this belated tribute partly because I failed to dependably requite the love I felt for this noble man, and partly to rekindle the memory of a revered teacher who rose above the standard of exceptionality then and today. Others, of course, have remembered Casey as well. Indeed, his cottage in Mexico Point and the surrounding area has been preserved since 1991 by Friends of Casey’s Cottage and restored as an historical, artistic and cultural center, commemorating the humble edifice as ‘a work of love, a place of beauty, friends, companionship and good conversation only.’

“As our own time draws to an end, can we say who, in our lives, was most responsible for teaching us to think clearly about the bewildering array of symbols and slogans that clutter our daily existence, for exhorting us to be merciful and just, for urging us to remain steadfast in the honing and virtuous application of our intellect? I can. For me, it was William Casey. I was fortunate to be one of his ‘ten thousand sons,’ as he proudly referred to us, and I thank Columbia for having him here for me.”

As a closing note: 2019–20 is the 100th anniversary of the Core. This is an opportunity for the development department at the College to

## Core Haiku



A noble lie? No!  
Plato did not understand.  
Truth is what’s noble.

— George Jochnowitz ’58

**John Clubbe** GSAS’65 has completed a major work on Beethoven. His book *Beethoven: The Relentless Revolutionary* was published July 2019. He writes, “It has garnered (when last my wife, Joan, checked) five five-star reviews in Amazon’s ‘best musical biographies’ section and has to date sold more than 3,000 copies worldwide. The audio complete version (16 CDs!) recently was released. Here is a link to an interesting review, which appeared in the award-winning weekend arts supplement of our local *Sante Fe New Mexican*: [bit.ly/2RCdL94](http://bit.ly/2RCdL94).

From **Stephen Basson**: “I was a professional bassoon player for 41 years, and with an older brother (cellist) at Juilliard, and a New York City life myself, I am sure **Ira Lieberman** GSAS’69 and I would have in com-

especially deep and lasting impression on me. Through sheer luck I ended up in one of his sections for CC, and every class was worth looking forward to. Another terrific musician is my lifelong friend **David Wyner**, who practices psychotherapy in NYC (and piano wherever he can find one).”

**Frank Wilson**’s sister lives in Chicago. On a recent visit, Frank, his wife and sister, and **J. Peter Rosenfeld** and his wife and I got together for a very pleasant dinner.

I continue **Bob Ratner**’s reminiscences of his beloved professor, William C. Casey: “Over the next two years I was preoccupied with study, employment and family, so I saw Casey but twice. When I sent him news of my marriage and the subsequent birth of my son, he wrote an affectionate congratulatory letter



initiate an assault. As part of their offensive they held a small dinner in Chicago, to which I was invited. It turned out that the Class of '59 was the earliest one present. We have become the old men we saw at Homecoming when we were in the College. We did it!

Stay well, enjoy the spring and keep in touch.

## 1960

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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A healthy and happy 2020 to all. This is an auspicious new year. The 60th anniversary of the Class of 1960's graduation. In past years we have had excellent turnouts at our reunions. We hope to replicate that tradition this year when once again we gather on Morningside Heights, Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6.

Soon after learning about **Bill Engler's** death, **Bill Landes** GSAS'66 sent a note: "I heard about Bill. We were great friends at Columbia, and in years after. We corresponded about our 50th reunion but we hadn't been in touch since then."

Bill's note went on to describe his present life in retirement. After

earning a doctorate in economics at Columbia, Bill spent most of his career teaching at the University of Chicago and its law school, where he is professor emeritus, and writing prolifically on the economic analysis of law. He shares, "Retired from Chicago but I still teach a course on art law in the fall quarter. My wife, Lisa, and I spend winters in Scottsdale, Ariz. We are enjoying retirement. I started taking jazz piano lessons again [Bill and I were classmates at the H.S. of Music & Art] and took up golf. We feel very lucky. We are healthy, and still lifting weights [the two Bills — Landes and Engler — and I frequently worked out together at the gym on campus and at the Enrico Thomas/Mr. Universe gym on Broadway] and are blessed with seven grandchildren, three children and their spouses. Four grandchildren go to the University Lab School (ages 9-15) and our daughter Bonnie's oldest is a 1L at the University of Chicago Law School. I haven't been in New York in more than two years but follow Columbia football. I was able to watch most of the games last year on our dish."

A brief note from **Andre V. Hoyer** SEAS'60, who set the pace as the stroke oar of our first boat on freshman lightweight crew, sending special regards to the members of the team and with a promise that a more expansive update will follow: "I believe 10 years have passed since we last communicated. Truly, I am embarrassed that I have not kept up with classmates. I now receive regular updates from Columbia regarding crew schedules and races. Nice. And, I do relish receiving CCT, and particularly enjoy the Class Notes column."

"As you often meet with other crew members, I thought I would send a short note to let you and other members of our shell know that I am alive and well, and miss them all, although sadly, many are gone [I responded to Andre that **Frank Decker**, **Norm Hildes-Heim** and **Dick Nottingham** had passed]. I live in a small community west of Philadelphia. I still row, but on a WaterRower, not in a shell, as there is no convenient body of water nearby."

A most delightful surprise at a recent First Thursday of the Month Class Lunch: **John Pegram** showed up after what he described

as "a hiatus of 30-plus years." John reports: "After graduating with a concentration in physics, I got a job as a cathode ray tube engineer at the Allen B. DuMont Laboratories in Clifton, N.J., through a contact made while at WKCR. I took some engineering courses in the evenings for two years, and then enrolled in the evening program at NYU Law. In 1966, I joined a medium-sized patent and trademark law firm, where I ascended to partner and happily practiced there for nearly 30 years. In 1995, some of my partners wanted to join a general practice law firm, but I wanted to continue in a practice focused in what had become known as IP law [intellectual property law]. I led a group to open an NYC office for Fish & Richardson, which has since become the leading U.S. IP law firm. I am now trying to wean myself from most of my client work there."

"Following the example of my father and grandfather, I have always been active in professional associations, and have been a frequent author and speaker on IP law and civil litigation topics. I was president of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association, which gave me its Lifetime Achievement Award this year, the first such award not given to a judge. I chaired many committees in the American Intellectual Property Law Association, was a member of its board and received its President's Outstanding Service Award in 2011. I also was editor-in-chief of *The Trademark Reporter* and a board member of what is now called the International Trademark Association."

"In 1966, I married Patricia 'Patty' Narbeth, a neighbor from my hometown of Swarthmore, Pa. We lived on NYC's West Side until 1972, when we bought a gutted rooming house in the then-marginal neighborhood of Park Slope, Brooklyn, and moved there with our son and daughter. We have done most of the renovations (which continue today) ourselves. Each of our children have produced a boy and girl. Our daughter married a Frenchman, so we are 'forced' to visit her and her family in Paris."

"I have enjoyed comparing memories at reunions and am looking forward to seeing many classmates at our next reunion."

**Bill Tanenbaum** has a passion for travel. Twice during the past

year, he and his wife, Ronna, traveled to Europe. He describes their wanderlust: "Our hobby is traveling, but we believe that if you are physically capable of being active, then do whatever it is you enjoy and do it now. Last year, in late February and into early March, we visited Spain on our own for 16 days. Our visit included studying Spanish, Moorish and Jewish history. In visiting Barcelona, Málaga, Granada, Seville, Córdoba and Madrid we learned a great deal. In June, with six members of our family, we led a 16-day tour of London and Paris with an emphasis on art history, visiting nine museums. The grandchildren (aged 11, 13 and 15) are 'hooked' on traveling like we are."

A sad note. On September 14, 2019 we lost **Jerry Schmelzer** JRN'62. **Rene Plessner** offers this recollection: "I spoke to Jerry 5-10 times a year and he was always funny, insightful and interested in how members of our class were doing, particularly **Peter Schweitzer**, **Bob Abrams** and **Larry Mendelson**. He loved baseball, and we talked trivia often, particularly about 'his team,' the Cleveland Indians. [Jerry was from Cleveland Heights, Ohio.] At our 50th reunion, dining at V&T, we sat with Bob and Peter and tried to stump each other on baseball trivia, such as, 'Who was DM of the 1950 Detroit Tigers? (Dave Madison), and 'Who was Rocky Colavito traded for? (Harvey Kuenn).' We laughed with glee. Jerry and Peter were WKCR sports announcers during our years at the College and they were quite a team — superb at what they did — employing just the right amount of fact and humor to draw and enliven interest in some of our hapless teams. Jerry really was a product of Columbia College, a 'whole man.' I will miss him."

**Bill Tanenbaum** offers this reminiscence: "Most times when one considers the passing of a friend, the thoughts relate to the person's accomplishments: the awards received, the success in business or profession, or the fame achieved."

"Jerry did well in his real estate business but that was second to the smile on his face when he greeted you, or to the happy sound in his voice when he spoke with you."

"We last saw him and his lovely wife, Sharon, on January 18, 2018,



## Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





Former football players Gerry Brodeur '61 (left) and Bob Federspiel '61 recently got together.

in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., upon their return from a cruise. We enjoyed lunch together.

"A wise person once said, 'There comes a time in your life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad and focus on the good.'

"Jerry was such a person — one who would make you laugh. He will surely be missed."

Our deepest condolences to Sharon, and to all of Jerry's family.

## 1961

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**Gerry Brodeur** writes, "From playing football in 1959 for Columbia to a get-together at the Leatherneck Club in Las Vegas, Gerry and **Bob Federspiel** have not changed a bit."

See the above photo from Vegas!

**Phil Cottone** still plays golf and tennis in addition to working. He and his wife, Maureen, have been traveling throughout the world for the last 10 years. They go somewhere just about every year. They went to China this year following trips in previous years to Vietnam and Thailand; St. Petersburg, Russia; Estonia; and throughout Europe. They have concluded that riverboats and small cruise ships are their favorite ways to travel. About five years ago, Phil was part of an American Bar Association delegation asked by the government of Vietnam to go to Hanoi

as the guests of the courts to teach arbitration and mediation, and that got them interested in Asia. He and Maureen intend to continue to travel as long as they can; they usually do it with friends from Australia (Brits by background) whom they met about seven years ago on a boat and have been traveling with ever since.

Phil and Maureen have four sons, 11 grandchildren — five grandsons and six granddaughters (three married now) — and two great-grandchildren. Descendants include son Anthony '80 and grandson Ryan '15.

**Don Savini** and his wife, Patricia, spent the Christmas holidays in Chicago, where several of their seven children live. Good food and lots of family activities were included. Don and Patricia preferred to be on their farm in central Pennsylvania with everyone there, as big-city commotion isn't what they enjoy.

**Bob Salman** LAW'64 presented a talk at Brookdale Community College in April, "Trump Impeachment — What Happened and Why." To celebrate his 80th birthday, Bob's daughter Suzanne and her family took Bob and his wife, Reva, to Puerto Rico for a week to relive their first vacation away from the United States mainland. In March, their daughter Elyse (who is married to the great-nephew of Columbia icon Sid Luckman '39) took them to a New York Yankees spring training game, fulfilling one of Bob's bucket list items.

Rabbi **Cliff Miller** has retired from synagogue pulpits, but is still working, cataloging books in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Cliff walks a mile each day from the Port Authority Bus Terminal to Times Square and from Columbia to JTS and back, as well as walking up and down stairs to and from subways, to provide his cardiovascular exercise. Cliff commutes to work in Manhattan four days a week.

Cliff's brother recently retired, closing his law practice at 89, so maybe it is not too soon for Cliff to consider retirement.

**Arnold Klipstein** continues to do *locum tenens* jobs and went to Urbana, Ill., in February to do gastroenterology work. He also works in a free clinic in Bridgeport, Conn., caring for indigent patients and tending to their digestive needs.

Arnold's grandson Jonas (21) went to Israel on a trip for young adult

Jews to learn about Israel. As part of the trip, the group heard a lecture on becoming a bone marrow donor. Jonas signed up and was a match for a 70-year-old woman with leukemia. Jonas, who lives in California, flew to Boston to donate his marrow, which was sent to the woman's location. The donor and the receiver know nothing about each other's location. Arnold was with Jonas after donating. Arnold is very proud of him. Jonas will be listed in the Gift of Life Marrow Registry. It was a painful procedure, but Jonas felt it was worth it to save someone's life.

**Tony Adler** wrote that there are a number of classmates who are full-

multiple myeloma. After graduating cum laude from the Law School, Arnie spent 25 years as an associate and then a partner at Botein, Hays, Sklar & Herzberg, where he focused on corporate and securities work. From 1990 until 2015, Arnie was a legal advisor to Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a privately owned, multinational pharmaceutical company. For more than 25 years he was a board member and then a VP of the Educational Alliance, a Jewish organization based in New York City's Lower East Side that focuses on a mix of education, health and wellness, arts and culture, and civic engagement for all New Yorkers.

**Core Haiku**

Fresh-formed like Eve, I  
tasted the Knowledge Apple  
But found only Core.

— Imre Horvath '61

or part-time residents of Florida. Some have expressed interest in a lunch meeting in the greater Palm Beach area. Tony would be glad to coordinate if there is interest. Many of you have Tony's email address. If not, please contact me and I will provide it.

Tony and his son Peter recently purchased a 26-ft. fishing boat, so he will have to take up fishing to justify the expense.

Hon. **Jose Cabranes**'s opinion article "Higher Education's Enemy Within," published with the sub-head, "An army of nonfaculty staff push for action and social justice at the expense of free inquiry," ran in the *Wall Street Journal* on November 8. This article was adapted from remarks delivered on October 18 to the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, which bestowed on Jose its 2019 Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education.

Jose serves on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He was Yale's first general counsel, and later was a trustee of Yale, Columbia and Colgate.

Sadly, **Arnold Chase** LAW'64 died on October 1, 2019, at home with his family surrounding him, following a nearly 14-year battle with

Arnie is survived by his wife of more than 32 years, Nilene Evans; daughter, Michelle Sarao; son, Ben; and Michelle's children, Gavi, Isaac and Avital.

## 1962

**John Freidin**  
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**Crawford Killian** writes that he "can remember when my 1958 acceptance letter told me I was in the Class of 1962 — an impossibly remote date. The idea of life in the 2020s was unimaginable, even to an aspiring science fiction writer."

Crawford's 22nd book, *A Writer's Guide to Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction and Fantasy*, is now available from your local bookstore. It was written in 2019 with the collaboration of a Mexican-Canadian author, Silvia Moreno-García, who is not only a fine writer but also a state-of-the-art conversant in self-publishing and marketing. Crawford continues to write for The Tyee (thetyee.ca), and last year published a series on dementia.

"In September, at the end of a pleasant trip to Finland and Sweden,"



Crawford reports, "my wife collapsed at Stockholm Arlanda Airport as we were about to fly home. We got a one-day crash course in Swedish healthcare, including excellent airport paramedics and a highly competent, very laid-back emergency department in a suburban Stockholm hospital. My wife's faintness turned out to be a transient problem, and the next day we returned uneventfully to Vancouver. Lessons learned: Don't go overseas without plenty of medical insurance, which we had. Swedish hospitals are good, and charge accordingly. Keflavik International Airport is to be avoided except in emergencies. We have no plans for further overseas travel."

Though on our class list, **Carl Jacobsson** SEAS'63 recently confessed that he is (also?) a civil engineering graduate and has been retired from his engineering career for 11 years. In retirement, Carl has devoted himself to the work of his local branch of the NAACP in Bremerton, Wash., where he chairs the political action committee. He shares that on March 7, the Bremerton branch of the NAACP will commemorate four major anniversaries: the adoption of the Namibian Constitution (February 9, 1990), the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in South Africa (right after the adoption of the Namibian Constitution), the People Power Revolution in the Philippines (February 22–25, 1986) and the Bloody Sunday March in Selma, Ala. (March 7, 1965).

**Joe Nozzolio** recently finished reading a book about our football

captain, **Billy Campbell** TC'64: *Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley's Bill Campbell* by Eric Schmidt et al.

Joe says: "The book tells a lot about Bill's life, but focuses on his tenures as a board member of Google and Apple, how he applied skills he acquired as a football coach and player to guide and coach those who reported to him and how he always focused on the 'goal' or solution to the problem *du jour*. Great read. I passed it on to my grandchildren, who are recent college graduates and new to the business world."

On New Year's Eve, **Allen Young** sent the following message: "I am in Honolulu with some friends, part of an extended winter getaway. Yesterday, as a winter storm struck New England, I was swimming in the Pacific Ocean."

While in Honolulu at the invitation of friends, Allen enjoyed wonderful time with Honolulu native Paul Nagano '60, who had left Boston to return to his roots. They visited museums, drove around Paul's old neighborhood and reminisced about Columbia topics such as the Van Am Society (Paul was a member), *Spectator* (Allen was its editor) and Naval ROTC (Paul became a lieutenant and served in the Navy). For years, Paul lived in Boston and Bali. While in Boston, he managed the successful art gallery owned by Bernie Pucker '59, and pursued his own career as an artist. "Paul," writes Allen, "enjoyed the support of a patron in Bali, and painted beautiful watercolors featuring the culture, landscape and botany of Bali. Google 'Paul Nagano' for more."



The Class of 1963 met for their monthly lunch in January. Clockwise from bottom left: Tom Lewis, Mike Lubell, Steve Barcan, Paul Neshamkin, Alan Wilensky, Mike Erdos, Ed Collier, Harvey Schneider, Bob Heller, Lee Lowenfish, Doron Gopstein, Henry Black and Larry Neuman.

From New York City, **Lester Hoffman** writes, "I am involved with a new children's literacy initiative designed to encourage the enjoyment of reading among first- and second-graders. Lyrics 4 Literacy harnesses the power of music to get beginning readers (ages 5–8) engaged in reading through face-to-face interaction."

"Designed as a supplement to early reading curricula, L4L is especially timely, since the National Educational Scorecard recently showed that nearly two-thirds of fourth-graders don't meet grade-level reading standards."

"Further, recently published brain research indicates that digital, screen-based reading approaches may have significant drawbacks, such as affecting parts of the brain involved in language learning and cognition."

"If this educational arena interests you, I'd love to hear from you."

Not Benefiting Children Who Need It Most." He writes, "It is based on my analysis of five years of child support and parental involvement data collected by the Census Bureau for the Office of Child Support Enforcement. The link is [bit.ly/2S8o4Sm](http://bit.ly/2S8o4Sm)."

**Zev Bar-Lev** writes, "Life is good; I've enjoyed my first decade of retirement with my wife, Shoshana BC'63; and our three kids, five grandkids and three granddogs. We're active in synagogue life, and are passing on Hebrew to new generations. As principal of a Hebrew school in Poway, Calif., our daughter uses my multi-level Hebrew program. My 'nanosemantic' theory (a comprehensive theory of 'how languages mean' see [languagebazaar.com](http://languagebazaar.com)) is about to be published in a third article in *Macrolinguistics*."

**Ben Tua** writes, "Every now and then I get published, mainly short articles on foreign policy topics. My most recent piece is 'Learning About Islam: From Ignorance to Understanding,' which appeared in *American Diplomacy* in September. Those who are interested can access it online at [unc.live/2tk7tCS](http://unc.live/2tk7tCS)."

**David Orme-Johnson** writes, "Here is a link to my article on research on cosmic consciousness: [bit.ly/2S9HO82](http://bit.ly/2S9HO82)."

It is with sadness that I report the deaths of **Barry Jay Reiss** LAW'66 and **Victor Margolin**.

Barry died in November from Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as ALS. He had been one of the regulars at our monthly Class of '63 lunches until he had a heart bypass in March 2018. It was successful and

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!

CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.



## 1963

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I wish we had enjoyed a more successful football season, but Homecoming 2019 at least gave us an enjoyable day, as many in the class returned to witness an epic blowout as the Lions routed Penn 44–6. Let's hope that this year has a lot more games like that.

**Nick Zill** sent me notice of his latest article, "The New Fatherhood Is





Barry was recovering well when it was discovered in the late summer of that year that he was suffering from ALS. Barry had been a successful music and show business lawyer both in private practice and for major media corporations, working with Clive Davis at CBS Records and then helping form Arista Records. He then moved to a variety of roles at MCA. Back in private practice, he represented clients such as U2 and The Allman Brothers Band.

I will miss Barry at our lunches, where he was a presence for the last 16 years. He loved to share stories about his days working at WKCR as an undergrad, his travels and his law practice, which he still enjoyed. He was proud of his commitment to the environment as an early adopter of solar panels for his house and his old Tesla.

We will miss you, Barry.

Victor was a retired professor of art and design at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the founding editor of *Design Issues*. He is considered one of the founders of the discipline of design history. His most ambitious work was the *World History of Design*. You can watch him in a YouTube video describing the process of writing this book at [youtu.be/Kxy0THLfuI](https://youtu.be/Kxy0THLfuI). I remember him as a man with a fine sense of humor. He was the editor-in-chief of *Jester*, and a contributor to *MAD Magazine* and the editor of two books of puns he wrote as an undergraduate.

Rest in peace.

If you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class



Niles Eldredge '65 (left) and Leonard Pack '65 attended a December 15 performance at William Paterson University in Paterson, N.J.

lunches at the Columbia Club (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club). The next are on April 9 and on May 14.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next.

## 1964

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I am writing early in January; the ball has fallen in Times Square and, depending on your point of view, we are in the final year of the first decade of the 21st century, or the first year of the second decade of the century. Regardless, I wish each of you and your loved ones a Happy New Year, and a year of Good Health, Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

This time around there have been no responses to the questions I put to the class: What do you wish you had known when you were 18, and what advice do you have for the members of the College's next graduating class as they face becoming "adults"?

But I did not come up completely empty. After reading **Lee Witting's** response in the Winter 2019–20 issue, in which Lee mentions he is from Penobscot, Maine, **Eddie Harrow PS'68** wrote to say that he learned from the note that he and Lee live within 30 minutes of each other in Maine and that they both had worked at the same hospital for 15 years! They will connect. This has happened before: A classmate learning from Class Notes that a member of CC'64 is nearby.

Last year the New York State legislature declined to legalize the recreational possession of marijuana. But the state does have a medical marijuana program. **Dave Levin**, whose pain from a torn rotator cuff in each shoulder interrupts a good night's sleep, registered with the program for pain management and received a medical marijuana card. He has a prescription for a marijuana oil but says that after using it for one week there was "not much of an effect." He and his wife, Linda, planned to go to Florida for two months. He hopes the warm sunshine will help.

The college basketball season is underway and, after watching Columbia defeat Marist, I had dinner at V&T with **Steve Singer**, who lives in Morningside Heights.

**Marty Weinstein** and his wife, Ruth, celebrated their 50th anniversary with friends in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Felicidades.*

There is an informal class lunch in Manhattan the second Thursday of every month (except July and August), so if you are nearby, or visiting New York City, join us.

**Peter Thall** sent an email that the December lunch was a "mini-CC experience" that "belongs in a Core classroom." While I cannot promise the lunch conversation is always so elevated, we do enjoy ourselves.

So, answer (or do not answer) the questions I have put to the class. But do send in a note and let us know what you are up to, or tell us about a trip you have taken (maybe with a grandchild) or a book or film you recommend.

## 1965

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6

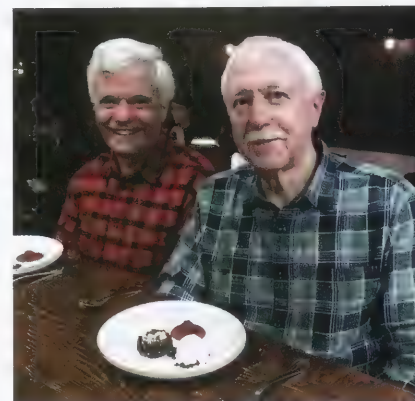
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**Leonard B. Pack**  
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It's just coincidence, but for this column I insinuated myself into three stories. First, I met **Larry Guido** and his partner, Judith Kaplan, for lunch in Manhattan on November 4. Judith has had an apartment in Paris for many years, so Larry and she split their time between the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla., and in Paris, where they do "hardship duty." Says Larry, "Someone has to!"

I saw **Bob Henn** in New York in early June when he was in town to attend a "Core|Reexplore" program at the College, "Tragedy: Literary and Philosophical Perspectives." I was in San Francisco in mid-November for an arbitration, and Bob took me to a wonderful restaurant, 3rd Cousin, in the Bernal Heights neighborhood. See the nearby photo of Bob and me enjoy-



Bob Henn '65 (left) and Leonard Pack '65 enjoyed dinner in San Francisco in November.

ing dessert. Bob is trying to retire from the practice of law with, so far, interim success.

**Niles Eldredge** and I are passionate jazz fans. I met up with Niles on December 15 to attend a performance at William Paterson University in Paterson, N.J., by John Pizzarelli (on guitar) and Catherine Russell (a magnificent vocalist). Niles's wife, Michelle, took the nearby photo of the two of us in the lobby. As we chatted, Niles told me he had only recently met **Stuart Newman** (they had not known each other while at the College) because Stuart is the editor of the scientific journal that published a recently issued paper by Niles and a collaborator. I contacted Stuart, who provided us with the following update on his career and recent encounter with Niles: "After graduation with a concentration in chemistry (having been afforded a rich complement of courses, both required and elective, in the humanities and social sciences), I headed to the University of Chicago to do a Ph.D. in chemical physics. During my first quarter, I met my later-to-be-wife, Jura, in a philosophy course. Though not typical for chemistry graduate students, the inclination to take such educational detours seems bred in the bone for Columbians. It has paid me dividends many times over.

"My research, grounded in strong courses in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics at the College and carried forward under my doctoral supervisor, Professor Stuart Rice, led readily to involvement in the theories of complex systems that were emerging in the 1970s, and, with colleagues of the renowned U. Chicago school of theoretical biology, to applications in



the life sciences. This in turn drew me, through a series of postdoctoral turns, to theoretical and experimental work in developmental biology (i.e., embryology and regeneration), and then, by the 1980s, to participation in the rise of the field that came to be called 'evolutionary developmental biology' (EvoDevo). In the decades since, I have worked on the origination and evolution of animal and plant body plans, the tetrapod limb, and the first birds and eggs, among other things.

"Because EvoDevo incorporated into evolutionary theory the abrupt morphological transformations observed in developing systems, the perspective challenged the gradualism of the standard Darwinian model. In my view, this resonated with the path-breaking notion of punctuated equilibrium that had been introduced by paleontologist **Niles Eldredge** and his colleague Stephen Jay Gould. Niles and I did not meet at Columbia, but he is widely known and esteemed by the evolutionary biologists of our time. More recently, our professional trajectories have intersected along interdisciplinary routes that likely owe much to our shared boundary-breaking undergraduate education.

"My work in developmental biology has always been balanced by resistance to misapplications of the field's techniques to human biology, such as cloning and germline gene modification, which carry risks both of eugenicism and experimenter-induced errors. In addition to a coauthored textbook (with physicist Gabor Forgacs) in my own research area (*Biological Physics of the Developing Embryo*, 2005), I have recently published (with historian Tina Stevens) *Biotech Juggernaut: Hope, Hype and Hidden Agendas of Entrepreneurial Bioscience* (2019), a historical and contemporaneous account of reproductive technologies and their pitfalls.

"The criticism of overdependence on the concept of the gene implicit in both the theoretical and social-critical areas of my work has led to involvement in several organizations. I was a cofounder in 1980 of the public interest group Council for Responsible Genetics, and later became a member of the external faculty of the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research in Klosterneuburg, Austria. About five years ago, I was invited to become editor of the KLI's philosophy of biology journal, *Biological Theory*. I doubt I would have accepted had I not been so well and broadly educated at Columbia, beginning with the Core Curriculum.

"It was *Biological Theory* that led to my crossing paths with Niles. Last year my co-editors and I decided to initiate a feature, 'Classics in Biological Theory,' in which a major scholar would be recruited to write a critical introduction to a forgotten, important paper, which would then be made available online to the scientific community. Niles was a consensus choice to inaugurate the series, and we were thrilled that he agreed. His essay on Clarence King's 1877 prescient 'Catastrophism and Evolution,' appeared in late 2019. Upon becoming familiar with the journal, Niles decided that it was an apt publication venue for an interdisciplinary, socially engaged, conceptual paper he was preparing with cancer biologist James DeGregori. Their remarkable article, 'Parallel Causation in Oncogenic and Anthropogenic Degradation and Extinction,' available at the *Biological Theory* website ([bit.ly/2U6yffH](http://bit.ly/2U6yffH)), will appear in print early this year.

"After periods in Brighton, England; Philadelphia; and Albany, Niles and I have lived (ideally for us) less than an hour north of New York City since I became a faculty member at New York Medical College in Valhalla 40 years ago. Our daughter Sarah is a curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., and our daughter Erica is an ecologist at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Through the years I have been privileged with a close friendship with **James Siegel**, a fellow editor of *Jester*."

Check out the "Bookshelf" section for news about Stuart's latest book. **Mike Bush** circulated news of a great honor awarded to **Ron Chevako BUS'67** and his wife, Anne, adding, "I'm sure this deserves a loud and long fanfare — from any band!"

He shares, "On October 31, Ron and Anne represented the Jane Stern Dorado Community Library at the Library of Congress 2019 Literacy Awards conference in Washington, D.C., as a Best Practice Honoree, a recognition of 15 organizations that have developed 'programs uniquely successful in their communities and potentially applicable to other audiences.' JSDCL fell into the category of 'innovative programs through libraries'

for the Satellite Community Library Program extending services to seven barrios in four Puerto Rican municipalities. Our pride in our program was matched by the other 14 honorees, amazing organizations with programs across the United States in Afghanistan, Ruanda and Central America."

**Dan Carlinsky** added, "Hey, not just a fanfare — a full rendering of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' followed by a chorus of 'Who Owns D.C.?' A real sweet recognition."

Ron got the last word: "Dan, I like both of your suggestions for differing reasons. We were rather impressed and thought that these awards might give a boost to Puerto Rico national (state) pride. The reconstruction progress has been nothing short of abysmal except for the best mayors. FEMA personnel are accused of stealing \$1.8 billion and a number have been arrested. No plans for reconstructing the electrical system

## 1966


**Columbia College Today**  
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Happy spring, and thank you to those who wrote in! Please take a moment and send your news to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). Classmates want to hear from you.

From **John Burrows**: "It doesn't seem possible that I am starting my sixth year in an outdoor paradise appropriately named Eden, Utah. I moved west because Horace Greeley said to do so (and my three children and grandchildren were all out here).

"I am within 20 minutes of three great ski areas, the best of them being the unequaled Powder

Core Haiku



Sold Core texts bought beer.  
Later bought same texts paid more.  
Lesson here is what?

— Thomas Chorba '66

Mountain — the largest skiable area in North America. I am a Powder Guide there. Still getting about 90 days a year in the fluff.

"Music continues to be a driving force in my life, having recently recorded a 20-song CD, *Eagle in the Air*. Incredibly, four Grammy winners volunteered their services. The music follows my lifeline of oceans and mountains, being equally distributed between country rock (a genre I help found) and Caribbean rock.

"Moving from New England to Utah was the right thing, but here I was at 67 with no friends, no audience for my music and no familiarity with the medical institutions (hehe). Music has again led me to wonderful associations with many new friends/fans. And Eden, in this high mountain valley close to Salt Lake and Ogden, is truly magical and unequalled, providing an incredible quality of life.

"So, this proud father and grandfather continues to ski, hike, bike and write music. If you want to hear

yet have been released for public hearings. We thought a little good news would be welcome!

"We did do local publicity but did not get the response we expected as apparently it was interpreted in some quarters as 'political.' We made some great contacts in Washington, including expanding our relationship with personnel of the National Cathedral School and received technical assistance that will allow us to improve the quality of the free courses that we give in our small, satellite libraries. That was the really great news!"

I learned from a November 1 email from his organization, Africa Consultants International Baobab, that **Gary Engelberg**, who had been in poor health, died in Senegal on August 12, 2019. After graduation, Gary went to Senegal as a Peace Corps volunteer, and he essentially remained there, doing good social justice and development work, for the rest of his life. You can read testimonials and reminiscences from his work colleagues and fellow Peace Corps volunteers online at [bit.ly/2RSvmtc](http://bit.ly/2RSvmtc).





my new tunes from *Eagle in the Air* go to [johnburrows.hearnow.com](http://johnburrows.hearnow.com)."

**Mark Levine** shares: "**David Gilbert**'s son, **Chesa Boudin**, won a tightly contested race for district attorney in San Francisco in November's election. Chesa is a Yale graduate and a former Rhodes Scholar. His mother is **Kathy Boudin**."

From **Tod Howard Hawks**: My father wanted me first to obtain a law degree and then an M.B.A. I got neither, a defiant decision I made for which he never forgave me. I dropped out of law school before the end of my first semester. I have been a poet and human-rights advocate my entire adult life.

"I would like to share the poem 'Those Who Rule.' I posted it on [hellopoetry.com](http://hellopoetry.com), where it has received more than 1,000 hits.

#### Those Who Rule

We shall keep the poor poor.  
We shall be on them like  
a master's whip on the backs  
of slaves; but they will not  
know us: we are too far and  
too close. We shall use the  
patois of patriotism to patronize  
them. We shall hide behind our  
flags while we hold only one pole.  
We shall have the poor fight our  
wars for us, and die for us; and  
before they die, they will kill for  
us, we hope, enough. In peace,  
we shall piecemeal them and serve  
them meals made of toxins and tallow.  
For their labor, we shall pay them  
slave wages; and all that we give,  
we shall take back, and more, by  
monumental scandals that subside  
like day's sun at eventide. We shall  
be clever, as ever, circumspect and  
surreptitious at all times. We shall  
keep them deluded with the  
verisimilitude  
of hope, but undermine always its  
being. We shall infuse their lives  
with fear and hate, playing one  
race against another, one religion  
against a brother's. Disaffection is  
our key; but we must modulate our  
efforts deftly, so the poor remain  
frightened and angered, but always  
blind and deaf and divided. And if,  
perchance, one foments, we shall  
seize the moment and drop his head  
into his hands, even as he speaks.  
This internecine brew we pour, there-  
fore, into the poor to keep them drunk  
with enmity and incapacitation. Ah,

eternal anticipation! Bottoms up,  
old chaps! We, those who rule,  
shall have them always in our laps.  
We are, as it were, their salvation.

## 1967

**Albert Zonana**  
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Congratulations to **Tom Hauser** LAW'70, who has been selected for induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place on June 14. Tom is known in boxing circles as Muhammad Ali's friend and biographer. On eight occasions, articles he has written have been designated as the "best investigative reporting of the year" by the Boxing Writers Association of America. In 2004, the BWAA honored him with the Nat Fleischer Award for Career Excellence in Boxing Journalism.

**Elliot Bien** LAW'71 writes, "After a few years as a law professor in Chicago, in 1982 I became a civil appeals specialist in San Francisco and have greatly enjoyed this academic and less-stressful outpost of law practice. I'm still active, but my longstanding musical career (including the Columbia band) has been expanding. I'm now composing; playing woodwinds in chamber groups, a klezmer band and Jewish service; and doing a weekly guitar and harmonica gig at a local café. A wonderful wife of 44 years and two wonderful grandkids help life a lot, too. But I do miss NYC and Columbia."

My wife, Diane, and I were on a river cruise in Portugal in October. On the last evening of the trip, we found out that the gentleman who had kindly provided me with much-needed cold medicine was Mike Landa '71. Nice connection.

Be well all of you, and do write.

## 1968

**Arthur Spector**  
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Happy New Year. It is quite amazing that it is 2020. I hope the class is in good humor and in good health — a challenge, it seems, for all of us. I am

happy to report that I got hearing aids; they are outstanding and easy to handle (and overdue). No more excuses ... what? Seems to be better at a dinner table with a few others.

Lat year was quite a year — I went to Homecoming with some classmates, and the Lions had another great win. I am hopeful that the team will do better this year. Great wins over Penn and Harvard this season. Coach Al Bagnoli is exceptional, and his group of coaches are superb. The returning players should make for a stronger team. I believe we have five running backs this year with good experience; maybe the most exciting kick-off and punt returner in Columbia history; a superb receiver; and talented quarterbacks returning. Get your tickets early.

And, I might add, I have watched a few of the women's basketball team games, and the players are incredibly talented. It appears that Coach Megan Griffith '07 is a superstar; she has a young team but it is impressive, with lots of depth. It's an exciting group — I think they had 13 3s at a recent game. The team has outside shooting, rebounding and play-making, and clearly great coaching.

I heard from **Ross Ain**. It has been a while since he and I went to an art exhibition during a reunion. He writes: "Ross Ain has taken on new responsibilities as president of Caithness Energy, a privately held independent power producer, where he has been a partner and senior executive for the last 20 years. Caithness owns and operates state-of-the-art natural gas plants on Long Island and in Pennsylvania and the country's second largest wind farm, Caithness Shepherds Flat, an 845-megawatt wind farm on 30,000 acres of land in eastern Oregon. He says this is definitely his last hurrah, as he looks forward to summers on Cape Cod and less time on the Acela trains between his home in Washington, D.C., and his office and apartment in NYC."

**Buzz Zucker**, **Seth Weinstein** and **Robert Costa** '67 had dinner at V&T recently, and said it was a great night on the town.

**Alan Sepowitz** sent a sonnet:

To Alma Mater

Perched sphinxlike on the steps  
of Low,  
Are you ever o'er your left  
shoulder looking

When no-one's around, in the  
dim moonlight,  
To see if *The Thinker* has  
anything cooking?

You've seen many protests and  
rallies, Right and Left,  
Divergent views of events present  
and past,  
While on South Field frisbee players  
try to be deft  
Midst the persistent echoes of a  
Lou Gehrig blast.

You've seen NROTCers come  
and go,  
Are they smiling 'cause of pride in  
country and flag,  
As they march around the campus  
to and fro,  
Or 'cause Uncle Sam's covering the  
tuition price tag?

You've seen thousands pass by yet  
you never flirt,  
But wait! What's that owl doing  
under your skirt?

**Ken Tomecki** PS'72 is president of the American Academy of Dermatology, the world's largest dermatology society, with more than 20,000 members. Impressive for a "guy from Brooklyn." It is indeed impressive, but if he misses another reunion, he is in hot water! Given my hanging out in the shade at the pool here in Miami, I still expect a free consult at the next reunion.

Congrats, Ken.

I talked to **Art Kaufman** at length; he is doing well and is focused on his grandkids. He likes Miami Beach, so I am hoping he will show up some time. He continues to be a big fan of Columbia rowing and hopes to go to England this year.

I have an idea for the Class of 1968 showing up in Miami in December; Art Basel is here each year, and, thanks to **David Shapiro** GSAS'73, I have become more enthusiastic about 20th-century art (our art history class at Columbia helped, too). I think **Ross Ain** told me he is a collector, too.

In recent years, Columbia has sponsored some events at Art Basel. The Columbia University Club of South Florida has a good turnout, but I have this idea of about 1,000 of us showing up from the rest of the country, and outside of it. There are many venues in Miami, and par-



ties, too. You can see new artists or a Modigliani or a Miró or a Chagall; I saw a Pollock that would be perfect for one of us. Chuck Close was apparently floating around last year, and the convention center was packed with great stuff and champagne.

In any event, let me tell you a bit more about Art Basel 2019: David Silver, a major gifts officer for Columbia and our class's Alumni Office liaison, advised me of the coming attractions. Columbia also sent Ilene Markay-Hallack, senior executive director, strategic events, for the University (she worked with our class on some of our reunions), and Patty Tsai, senior associate director of CAA Arts Access. They came with our hosts, Suzanne Geiss of Murphy & Partners and Daniel Mitura '09. There was a Friday tour at Untitled, hosted by Theo Downes-LeGuin '86 of Upfor Gallery. Saturday night's event was in one of the large tents with windows on the beach, and food both outdoors and indoors. We had perfect weather, and it was a wondrous evening. I had gone the year before, when we had the event in The Bass museum.

My thought for 2020 is that we invite the Class of 1968 to host and we bring in the Classes of '65, '66, '67, '69, '70 and '71. Block out hotel rooms, and add a bit to the program — maybe a dinner dance. The infrastructure is in place; we just add to the size. I joked with Ilene and Patty about adding another 100 alums, but I think the right goal would be 1,000, with spouses/guests. This could be another great annual event for alumni. I will produce great weather.

So, it's just a thought, but as we had the largest turnout for a 50th reunion of any class, we certainly could pull it off again. With some sun and good weather and music, it might be some great days and nights.

Just to add one last thought: The whole Art History department might come down if we were big enough. This column will probably cause high blood pressure at Columbia, but it could be fun!

I spoke to Tom Sanford about my idea; he is game, so we shall see how this unfolds. His son is an artist, and we can consult with him.

Some of you might have been to the Met Opera-Columbia event that I conceived of as chair of the

Bicentennial. We filled up the house in 1987 for the best entertainment you could get on Broadway! Some folks thought the idea was insane — one was then-Dean Robert Pollock '61, who ended up enjoying the night. Lisa Carnoy '89, now co-chair of the University Board of Trustees, was a student then; she reported to me that she had a great time.

I was thin on news this time, but I promise a bulky column next time. Let me know if you have thoughts about Art Basel. Many here might come ("here" being Naples and South Florida).

All the best, and go Lions! See you around — maybe at Homecoming for another win!

## 1969

**Nathaniel Wander**  
c/o CCT

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Dear classmates of CC'69, allow me to introduce myself as the new class correspondent. I'm **Nathaniel Wander** Ph.D. GSAS'80. I hope to serve as faithfully as **Michael Oberman** did through all his years.

I also hope you'll accept me as an authentic classmate, though I didn't graduate until 1972. In 1967, I took a leave of absence to travel to Israel before the Six-Day War; following Spring '68, I resigned. My best evidence of belonging, however, is possession of my freshman beanie. How could I give up a baby blue Tweedledum/Tweedledee cap with a white "69" plastered across the crown?

Making up for prior fecklessness, I returned to Columbia in 1970, completing undergraduate and graduate degrees in anthropology. I taught in that department through summer '81, when I left for a post-doctoral fellowship in anthropology and psychiatry at UC San Diego. My dissertation research in rural West Bengal included study of ghost and witchcraft possession and exorcism; I came to understand exorcism as a kind of drama therapy. In San Diego I studied parallels between diagnosis of anti-social personality disorder and life histories of country music song characters — characters who regularly turned over municipal

dump trucks in the mayor's yard, lost all their worldly possessions rodeoing or shot a fellow barfly just to watch him die ....

Desirable academic positions were few when my fellowship ended in 1983. Reckoning I could conduct therapy as well as psychiatrists, if not exorcists, I took group-facilitation training with the Carl Rogers-founded Center for the Studies of the Person in La Jolla, Calif., and went on to practice in the Navy Substance Abuse Prevention Program until an M.D. friend invited me to Portland, Ore., to manage his clinic for street people.

In Portland, I lucked into an unofficial internship at a counseling center, and a decade later, emerged from Portland State University with a master's and a specialization in group work with substance abusers, and persons with advanced HIV. I worked for child protective services and for two county health departments, ultimately rappelling back to academia.

Based on experience in smoking cessation and as a rural city councilor, I was hired to assist rural Oregon municipalities to put tobacco control policy into practice. I stumbled across the \$10-million electronic document tobacco industry archive that emerged from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement between the State Attorneys General lawsuits against the Big Five tobacco companies. I went on to conduct research at UC San Francisco — where the archive had been curated — then at the University of Edinburgh, part of a British multi-university consortium. From 2002 to 2011, I specialized in tobacco industry activities to influence officials and the general public, particularly with regard to global health policymaking.

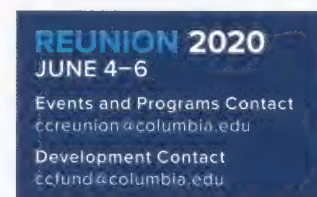
Following early retirement from Edinburgh, I relocated to Belize to study woodpeckers. My anthropological interests had included evolution and ecology; in the '90s, I'd become an avid birder, taking courses and participating in field studies of ecology and avian behavior. I was on my way to reinvention as an ornithologist when someone mistook me for a gringo rich enough to be worth killing and robbing: He shot me in the back with a shotgun, but obviously, I survived.

Back in the United States in 2017, I resettled in Oregon, where

I've been composing a personal/professional memoir, seven chapters of which have been published; an eighth was recently accepted. I began learning to paint in acrylics, then in watercolors; until photography obviated the skill, explorers and naturalists noted their findings in watercolor, and I long envied them. Having previously painted nothing but houses, it's been fun to discover new talents at this age.

Now that you know about me, what's new with you? Write me at nw105@columbia.edu.

## 1970



**Leo G. Kailas**  
lkailas@reitlerlaw.com

**David S. Sokolow** GSAS'71, LAW'79 proudly reports: "My big news for 2019: My wife, Tobi, and I won our first North American Bridge Championship together, the Senior Mixed Pairs, in San Francisco. It was my first unrestricted national win. Tobi, a six-time world champion, has put in 30 years trying to improve my game. I am happy to report she achieved her goal!"

"Otherwise, I'm still teaching at the University of Texas School of Law (39 years), but plan to go half-time next year. Too many places to explore, too little time. I'll spend three weeks in India in 2021 with **Ted Wirecki** and **Joel Mintz**. I look forward to seeing everyone at our 50th reunion."

I second David's precatory statement regarding our 50th reunion — a BIG EVENT in our lives that we should all celebrate! Our 50th reunion coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum; the great news is that during reunion weekend there will be lectures that focus on the Core and the reasons for its longevity and appeal. I should also mention that on Saturday afternoon we will have a forum for our class for which we will pick three or four topics to focus on that relate to our experiences at the College and how those experiences have had an impact





## 1971

Lewis Preschel  
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William Barr GSAS'79, the present and two-time attorney general of the United States, was the subject of the front-page article of *The Sunday Review of The New York Times* on October 27. The biographical article discussed his education, including his degrees from Columbia, as well as the fact that his father and mother were professors at our University. In a display of karmic irony, the most visible member of our class — a class that was heavily involved in the anti-Vietnam War protests — is from the conservative wing of the Republican party. That demonstrates the diversity of opinions and the breadth and depth of exposure a student at Columbia experiences. Our education is not limited to the classrooms. The campus environment allowed growth through the exchange of divergent ideas.

Art Smith TC'73 checks in: "After retiring from two stints as an environmental attorney (as a big prosecutor and progressive business officer), I am several years into adjusting to retirement. I enjoy splitting time among road biking, pro-bono climate change activity and family. I train all year in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan for annual bike trips; 2019 was Portugal and Joshua Tree, Calif. Recently finished my second article for an American Bar Association sustainable development journal (on ecosystem services and pluvial flooding). Most important is spending time with my grandkids — Landon (8), Sydney (4) and Tyler (2). It took a couple of years to find the right retirement balance. My wife, Jan, and I enjoy several trips each year to NYC that we combine with visiting family in Washington, D.C."

Mark Silverman has retired, as well. He was the founder and chair of the anatomic pathology department at the then-named Lahey Clinic in Boston. Mark writes, "My wife, Susan, and I lived in Newton, Mass., for almost 40 years, but now, we split our time between Massachusetts and New York City. We have an apartment in Greenwich Village so that we can enjoy life and see our three children and our three

grandchildren, who all live in the city. Although I enjoyed practicing medicine, retirement is really wonderful. I would love to reconnect with friends who remember those silly blue beanies and the good things like *The Gold Rail*."

How about equal time for those of us who frequented The West End?

Daniel Libby is a clinical professor of medicine, pulmonary and critical care medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, as well as an attending physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dan credits the Core Curriculum as having a profound influence on him. I would agree that as a physician, the ethics and morals of our humanities and arts studies set a standard for my life's work. He puts it this way: "Critical thinking, expression of one's ideas in writing, exposure to great moments in philosophy, history, works of art, literature and music broadened my outlook on the world and enabled me to appreciate so much more in life. Left to my own devices, I doubt I would have acquired the knowledge, critical thinking or appreciation of diversity that the Core Curriculum and College life demanded."

Dan also thanks the guardians/caregivers of the Core Curriculum for its continued growth and modification so that it remains as vibrant today as when we partook in it.

Dan went to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He returned to NYC for his internship and residency in internal medicine at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where subsequently he completed a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine. From 1979 to 1986, he was a full-time employee of Cornell University Medical College, pursuing academic pulmonary medicine. Thereafter, Dan has been in the private practice and has published approximately 100 journal articles on various aspects of the pulmonary/critical care medical field. His academic interests focused on the area of screening for lung cancer with low-dose radiation CT scans in high-risk individuals. This technique helped change the long-term outlook in lung cancer.

Dan remains in practice in New York City but has traveled the world with his wife of 42 years, Dr. Nancy Kemeny. They have three daughters



A group of CC'70 alums tailgated at the Lions's season-opening Saint Francis football game in Loretto, Pa., including Bob Borza, Jim Wascura, Bruce Nagle, Frank Furillo, Bernie Josefsberg and Pete Stevens.

our lives. There will be an open mic and everyone will be invited to participate. Princeton professor **Paul Starr** will speak to us on health care reform, and Professor **Tom Keenan** SEAS'71 will discuss cybersecurity issues that we should all be aware of.

Football captain **Frank Furillo** sent a note and a photo (above) regarding his opening game outing with classmates. Frank notes, "A group of CC'70 alums got together to tailgate at the Lions season opener at the Saint Francis game in Loretto, Pa. The Pittsburgh contingent included **Bob Borza** and **Bruce Nagle**, with **Pete Stevens**, **Bernie Josefsberg**, **Jim Wascura** and I representing the New York/New Jersey Lion contingent. All six were members of the 1966 freshman football team, which was coached by the legendary 'Coach of Silicon Valley,' Bill Campbell '62, TC'64. Even though it's been more than 53 years since we were first teammates, we remain close to each other, loyal to the football program and appreciative of our Columbia education."

I hope all of these football teammates show up at reunion so we can enjoy their banter and show them our appreciation.

**Michael Stern** reports, "I retired as a lawyer in Silicon Valley last year and am producing movies instead (much more rewarding and fun). Our first film, *General Magic*, is about a fabled startup that spun out of Apple in 1990 to build a smartphone 17 years before it was actually possible. The company's young engineers later developed both the

iPhone and Android, founded eBay, become the chief technology officer of the United States and achieved many other spectacular things. The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, played at film festivals around the world (garnering many 'Best Of' festival awards), was cablecast on Showtime in the United States and National Geographic in Europe, and debuted on streaming platforms in October 2019 as a top 10 pick on iTunes."

**Carl Hyndman** GSAS'74 sent the following: "Hard to believe it has been 50 years since we got our heads bashed on Low Plaza and then tried to go to Woodstock. I tried to summarize many of these events in my recently published novel, *Bookstore on the Seine*. I vividly remember carting **Lewis Siegelbaum** off the plaza. Then we rode in paddy wagons to the Tombs, where we spent the night with 700 others. Although I have had a fairly normal family and career life since then, I often reflect on those days and in particular my adventures along the hippie trail to Afghanistan in 1972; swinging from birches in Bennington, Vt., with David Shack '71; attending Sha Na Na concerts; and long nighttime discussions with Ed Wallace '71, **John Riley** and Chuck Bethel '69. I tried to recount these and other tales in my novel.

"All the best to those stalwarts and to others in Class of 1970."

Carl, I hope you will attend Columbia Reunion 2020 and tell us about some of your experiences during that era.



— Jacqueline, a Ph.D. in robotics at Carnegie Mellon; Laura, an M.D. in practice with Dan; and Victoria, a Psy.D. in Portland, Maine. He wishes for his granddaughters (Luna, Olympia and Lucianna) the enlightenment of a Columbia College education.

**Bennett Alan Weinberg** was a professor of cultural history, an attorney and a consulting writer for many Fortune 500 pharmaceutical companies, as well as being an award-winning author. His nonfiction books include *The World of Caffeine: The Science and Culture of the World's Most Popular Drug*, a reference book, and *The Caffeine Advantage: How to Sharpen Your Mind, Improve Your Physical Performance, and Achieve Your Goals — the Healthy Way*, a self-help book. These award-winning books have been translated into Italian, Japanese, Spanish, Korean and Indonesian. In the field of fiction, Bennett authored the neo-noir thriller *Mani's Girl: An Updated Noir Thriller* and the occult fantasy *Simon Magus: The First Vampire*. He shares, "My works allowed me to be a guest on many news programs and documentaries, including *CBS Sunday Morning*, Fox News's *Health and Fitness* and a radio interview on NPR's *Weekend Edition*, with Scott Simon."

Presently, poetry is Bennett's main interest. If anyone has an interest in reading or publishing poetry that is metered and often rhymed, Bennett would be delighted to hear from you.

**Arvin Levine** writes, "Funny, but my experience might have been different from what you generalized about our class. I only did service

on a local level (think Boy Scouts), studiously avoiding anything legal or governmental. Also, I saw our class as instrumental actors in the events of '68, not onlookers witnessing history in the unfolding. ... You know, 'If you don't like the news, make some of your own.'"

Arvin, I think part of our class acted to create history, but the whole of our class was on the scene to observe it. Do you remember, "If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem." was a popular quotation of the time?

Arvin lives in Jerusalem and ended his note with, "Thanks for re-raising my consciousness! Arvin Levine, Jerusalem (052-405-4129) and arvinlevine@gmail.com."

I assume Arvin would love to hear from classmates.

Rev. **Vincent J. Rigdon** wrote that after graduating, he worked for the Department of Commerce as an export control compliance inspector/special agent. He lived in Richmond Hill, Queens, and worked at JFK Airport. During this time, he considered the Catholic priesthood, and entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in 1973. Vincent was ordained a Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., on May 14, 1977, having already been commissioned as a chaplain candidate in the United States Air Force Reserve in 1974. In October 2000, he retired from the USAFR as a chaplain, lieutenant colonel. Prior to his retirement he achieved "Career Conditional" status.

Vincent also became famous throughout the USAFR by suing the secretary of defense over partial birth abortion: *Rigdon v. Perry*, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He had the temerity to win the case. As Vincent states, it was not a career-enhancing move.

He adds, "In July 2018, I retired from the pastorate, but not from the priesthood. I now live in retirement at Old St. Mary's in Chinatown, Washington, D.C., saying Mass, hearing confessions and keeping reasonably active. All the best to classmates."

Dear classmates, I am hoping to hold an informal class meeting in New York City, with working out logistics we are probably shooting for a year from this spring. If you are interested, please respond with dates that would work for you and a place (read: restaurant/bar; The West End

no longer exists, so pick someplace else) that might interest you. I will keep a list of interested classmates so that I can email you to work out the specifics when a consensus is reached.

Also remember that I only edit this column; without classmates checking in, I will have nothing to publish. We were drafted into the brotherhood of the Class of 1971. However, you have to volunteer to keep in touch. Drop the Class Notes a line.

## 1972

**Paul S. Appelbaum**  
pappel1@aol.com

**Larry Boorstein** SEAS'74, SEAS'78, BUS'88 shares some reminiscences: "I won't say that it seems a short time since college, but I do remember arriving at Columbia College in September 1968. Mayor

to Sulawesi to Kalimantan (Borneo), boarding small planes (the client told us to check the airworthiness certificate each time we got on a plane), coastal and river patrol boats, trips to a Caspian Sea port in Kazakhstan; Bangkok, Thailand; Casablanca, Morocco; the Suez Canal, Egypt; Portugal; and ports in Mexico, Central America (Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama) and South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile and Brazil)."

Now in Reston, Va., Larry specializes in planning for retirement and estates, college and long-term care.

**Steven Hirschfeld** PS'83 transitioned during this past year from active duty in the United States Public Health Service to civilian status and "maintains a footprint at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a larger footprint at the National Institutes of Health, and more of a footprint

## Core Haiku



Reading these books has  
been at the core of my life.  
Columbia, thanks!

— Phillip M. Weiss '73

John V. Lindsay gave the commencement address for my high school, Bronx Science, at a theater on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx in June 1968. LBJ was President when we started college and Nixon when we graduated; that seems so distant now. After getting a B.A. (as I recall, Alfred Hitchcock was awarded an honorary doctorate at Commencement), I went to the Engineering School for a master's in civil engineering (1974) and a professional degree in civil engineering (1978). I returned as a full-time student at the Business School, where I earned an M.B.A. in finance in 1988, before continuing my career."

After a 40-year career mostly with AECOM Technical Services, where he was project manager for transportation infrastructure projects in 19 states and 29 countries, Larry joined New York Life in April 2019. With AECOM, Larry traveled the world; he says, "Memorable experiences include a trip to visit ports in rural Indonesia, from Bali

doing work in the private sector. Does that mean I have three feet? No, it means constant hopping among locations."

Among other roles, Steven is a professor of pediatrics at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine of USUHS in Bethesda, Md.

**Armen Donelian**, our jazz musician extraordinaire, has recently seen the publication of the Italian edition of the first volume of his book *Training the Ear*. The original version in English of this textbook and CD package appeared in 1992, followed by the Japanese edition in 2001.

## 1973

**Barry Etra**  
betra1@bellsouth.net

My pleas for news fall on deaf ears. Makin' do with what I get ...

**James "Jim" Minter** caught up with **Peter Niemiec** after several decades, when Peter traveled east from



## Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct), or send news to the address at the top of your column.





Los Angeles for his 50th high school reunion. Jim and his husband, David Schnabel, were in London in September for **Mitch Freinberg's** daughter Charlotte '10's wedding, along with several other CC grads, among them Geoff Colvin '74, and Mitch's brother, David Freinberg '78. Jim and David's nephew, Matthew Ruppert, was admitted to the Class of '24, which he says is "the best news since their niece, Elise Minter Konover '07, was admitted to the Class of '07. Who owns New York, indeed?"

The redoubtable **Michael Shapiro** BUS'79 recently conducted the BBC National Orchestra of Wales for three days in Cardiff, performing his own *Archangel Concerto* for piano and orchestra, based on Milton's *Paradise Lost* (Michael notes, "first read by me in Humanities A" — go, Core!). Also conducted that day were his works *Roller Coaster*, *Perlimplinito*, *Opera Sweet*, and *Widorama*. All these are now commercially available and on BBC3 this year.

Need quantity over here, folks. Do send in your news, as your classmates want to hear from you. Thanks in advance.

## 1974

**Fred Bremer**  
f.bremer@ml.com

As we meander through our 60s, we are experiencing a change in the demographic landscape. While we were once considered "the younger generation," few would now look at our thinning grey or white hair and choose this description. Now it is the millennials who have taken our spot. We are left clinging to the hope of being considered middle age. At least they (occasionally) give us their seat and (far too often) refer to us as "sir."

With a generation often considered to be roughly 25 years, an increasing number of colleagues, neighbors and relatives are one or two generations younger than we are and thus have not shared many of our life experiences. In the same way we could not relate to our parents' references to the Korean War, many now consider the Vietnam War as a topic of history books.

At work recently I referred to author Ken Kesey and his 1962 book, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's*

*Nest*. All I got back were blank stares. (Lucky I didn't try mentioning the "Magic Bus" or the phrase "you're either on the bus or off the bus"!)

Another time I was quietly singing "My Boomerang Won't Come Back" (the 1961 song of our youth) and was told I must have made that up. Increasingly I find it necessary to "self-censure" in order to keep my remarks relevant to a greater and greater number. And it will only get worse!

It might not be long before many will find it impossible to believe that all colleges were not always coed. That reminded me of the "Around the Quads/Hall of Fame" article in the Fall 2019 *CCT*, "The Woman Who First Crashed the College Gates," about Anna Kornbrot SEAS'74, '75. The profile was the Columbia College Alumni Facebook page's most-clicked article of 2019! Anna discovered a loophole that allowed students at Columbia Engineering to add one more year at the College and receive both degrees. Now a doctor of dental medicine, she is married to **Barry Klayman** (an attorney at Cozen O'Connor in Wilmington, Del.). I saw a Facebook note from **Jon Ben-Asher** (an attorney with Ritz Clark & Ben-Asher in NYC): "Anna was always far cooler and braver than the rest of us!"

Also on Facebook was a posting by **Ted Markowitz** (chief architect for Cognosys in Darien, Conn.) about his pets: two Maine Coons (said to be the largest domestic cats in the world). He said the breed can weigh 9–18 lbs. and "is somewhere between a cat and a lynx."

An email came in from **Rob Stevens** (president and managing director of One Stone Productions — Mine Train Records in the Bronx). His impressive discography includes his recent remixing of John Lennon's *Imagine* album. Rob tells us he has also mixed, produced or played with quite a diverse group of musicians: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Herbie Hancock and Yoko Ono. (Were they discussed in *Music Hum?*)

There you have it. Classmates adapting to the changing demographics while continuing to follow their careers. Seems like we should be hearing of more classmates retiring, but no big flood of news. If this applies to you, send details!

## 1975

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Randy Nichols**  
rcn2day@gmail.com

**Alan M. Fixelle** has started a position as physician/CEO at his private practice, Gastro Consultants of Atlanta.

After drooling over their Facebook posts, I asked **Phelps Hawkins JRN'79** to send a few words about his and his wife Sandra's travels in Europe last summer. Former journalism professor that he is, Phelps outdid himself. I can't improve by editing, so I will just include it as he wrote it.

"We stormed into 2019 and our 70s as recent retirees with a plan not to have a plan. Neither of us wanted the pressure of deciding what to do in our retirement." As career-long journalists, there was little of substance to do professionally. So, we decided to look inward and keep it simple.

"We'd already offloaded all sorts of furniture and other stuff on the kids in Dallas, so next was to tackle decluttering, starting with a garage full of everything but two cars. Years of moving to next jobs, including two international round-trips, left us with boxes absolutely everywhere storing essentials from a child's pre-school art to antique red and gold Balinese doors to Grandma's incomplete single bed set.

"No surprise, they're not all gone yet, not even close.

"The surprise is we've been busy. Nobody told us that 70 was a watershed moment for health issues, or so it seems. The first 50 years, two doctors were just fine; now, I have 10, and every time I ask another question I'm likely to get another one. But I did finally take action on years of weight problems and had bariatric surgery. Now I'm down 60 lbs., with about 25 to go. It's easier when your stomach is about 20 percent its original size.

"We've also gotten started on one key element of our retirement — travel. Varied long weekend trips are a snap and, since I love to drive, not

all that expensive. We also enjoyed a full three months at our lake place in the northern Adirondacks. Then, we wrapped up the year with a terrific two-week trip introducing Sandra to Italy, with fabulous private tour guides in each major city: Venice, Florence and Rome.

"After a New Year's trip to see the four grandkids, and taking them to see *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* at the Dallas Children's Theater, we're now settled back in our barrier island Savannah home, enjoying the pool!

"Our next travel may have to be to move overseas, depending on the results of the 2020 election."

Fingers crossed for 2020!

**Gene Hurley** chimed in recently, writing: "I have not contributed anything to our *CCT* Class Notes since I was the original class correspondent in the 1970s. But having saved up, I now have plenty to relate. And I am in the mood to do so because I am on the verge of a big life change — specifically, after a lifetime in the NYC metro area, I am moving to Bloomington, Ind., for my retirement years."

After graduating from the College, Gene was a trade magazine editor for a while, then entered Brooklyn Law School, graduating in 1982. He says, "During and after law school I was a law clerk for U.S. Magistrate John L. Caden in the Eastern District of New York. In 1983, I joined the Manhattan D.A.'s office as an assistant D.A. I spent the next three and a half decades there before retiring in the middle of 2018. I was in the trial division and specialized in homicide cases and sex trafficking rings. I was appointed a senior trial counsel in 1994. The work was always challenging and engaging."

For the past few years Gene has been creating a collection of walking guides to Paris, for cell phones. It involves a great deal of historical research (and yes, visits to Paris and learning to read French).

In 2004, Gene married Ivy Millerand, whom he met on match.com. He has two sons, Bill and Peter, from a previous marriage.

Gene and Ivy have lived in and around NYC for most of their lives, and were planning to stay. But after visiting his sister and brother-in-law in Bloomington this past October, they decided to move. He says, "We're both retired, our parents are deceased, our best friends already



live four hours away, and they and my sons can afford to fly to visit, or we can fly back — it's just a two-hour, 15-minute flight, and Indy has a beautiful new airport."

**Richard Mattiaccio LAW'78** has made the transition from being a "Big Law" commercial and IP litigator and occasional arbitrator to working nearly full time as an arbitrator. He also represents clients at his new firm, Allegaert Berger & Vogel, an NYC boutique where the College is well represented. In his spare time Richard teaches arbitration law at Fordham University School of Law, chairs the London-based New York Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and is a co-director of an annual, one-week Columbia Law School/CIArb intensive course on international arbitration. In 2019 he co-chaired the first New York Arbitration Week, held at a number of NYC venues November 19–22.

A decade after their return from 19 years of child-rearing exile in Westchester County, Richard and his wife, Kate, continue to enjoy living on the Upper East Side. Kate is active in behavior analysis practice and in training teachers of students on the autism spectrum. They look forward to spending more time over the next few years with good friends and visiting new countries as well as old haunts.

And don't forget, 2020 is our 45th reunion year! Make your plans to attend Columbia Reunion 2020, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. The weekend will kick off with an all-class party at the New York Public Library, and there will be assigned class lounges in the newly renovated Carman Hall. The dorm room pictures I've seen are gorgeous — rich, wood-toned floors instead of cold tiles (but with the same built-in furniture). Mark your calendars!

The Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Alumni Committee on the Core Centennial ask for your help with an important piece of the Centennial celebration. The Core Stories Memory Project (#corestories) will gather reflections, perspectives, insights and memories of our Core Curriculum experiences to be shared throughout the year on social media, online and in various publications. At the end of the Centennial year, the College will preserve the memories in a digital and/or print format as the community expression of the Core experience.

Please visit [core100.columbia.edu/core-stories](http://core100.columbia.edu/core-stories) to submit stories, to attach a photo or to send a short video that speaks to your experience in the Core.

## 1976

**Ken Howitt**  
[kenhowitt76@gmail.com](mailto:kenhowitt76@gmail.com)

No music, as I am sitting Shiva for my 96-year-old mom, Mildred Howitt (spouse of Bill Howitt '41 and mother of four College graduates), who recently passed away. Two classmates were so embracing. First, **Tiberio Nascimento's** guitar playing was playing on a CD in Mom's hospital room during the last three weeks of her life. Then, **Mozelle Thompson** was the supreme editor for my eulogy. Thanks to both for all the support!

**Philip "Gara" LaMarche** checked in with a mini-reunion of his own: "In December, **Dan Baker** and I organized a reunion, with our wives, of three Columbians — ourselves, and Harry Bauld '77, along with Chris Daly, a Harvard friend. It was 40 years since the big birthday party we had for ourselves in 1979. We revisited old haunts like V&T and the site of the now-departed Felle's Tavern at 106th and Amsterdam, where we all played in a darts league.

"I head up the Democracy Alliance, the organization of progressive political donors, heading into the most important election of our lives, teach at Hunter College in the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program, and chair the boards of StoryCorps and *The New Press*."

**Gary Lehman BUS'80, SIPA'80** took a break from his job with Homeland Security to report he "... sojourned to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa with Shark Research Institute. Mission was to scuba dive/snorkel with the whale sharks to document/photograph them, building census baseline data while they congregate in the Gulf of Tadjoura. They are highly endangered and they might be gone before we even know much about them. The spot patterns for each whale shark are unique, so individuals can be identified; keep that GoPro running! Seeing a whale shark for the first time is a stunning experience; it is like looking back at the beginning of life on Earth. We also dove

between the separating tectonic plates in the Africa's Great Rift Valley.

"After the diving adventure, I met my wife in Addis Ababa and we toured Ethiopia: Addis Ababa and the 3.5 million-year old *Australopithecus Afarensis*; then north to Bahir Dar to see the source of the Blue Nile and Christian monasteries from 13th century on Lake Tana; Gonder; the stunning lava rock churches (World Heritage sites); and the spectacular Simien Mountains with various endemic species and the cheeky gelada monkeys! We are looking forward to welcoming [grandson] Silas in March; he will join his four cousins!"

**Laurence J. Collins** reports from Toledo, Ohio. He sent an incredible piece of digital art, which described his transformation to "phoenix" shortly after his Columbia graduation. LJC draws a parallel to a lion, in that "I am boldly striding forth." In that mission, he has been married to Linda for 37 years. They met in NYC during his freshman year. Together, they have four children (two boys and two girls), with two in business management, one a teacher and one a homicide detective. LJC continues, "I am a certified blood bank technologist, and worked within the Greater Toledo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross for 12 years in the blood processing lab, two years as community program consultant, and five years as founder and coordinator of the Men of Color Project of Toledo, which was an HIV/AIDS prevention and education initiative targeting gay and bisexual men of color in Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio. I officially retired from the Red Cross on August 1, 2019. In 1998, I earned a master's in education in mental health and school counseling from the University of Toledo. I was employed by Toledo Public Schools for 16 years before retiring in 2011. I have been a real estate developer since 1982 and provide affordable residential housing for Toledo residents. I am currently the head varsity basketball coach at my alma mater, Jesup W. Scott H.S., and will be a substitute biology teacher this year."

Indeed, like a phoenix, LJC seems to be constantly rising!

**Jeffrey Glassman** checked in with concern about the Columbia University Marching Band situation from last fall. The increased supervision concerns him, based on his rec-

ollection of an incident during our student years. He writes, "The band set out for the Saturday afternoon Brown game late Friday night, and then went to the Yale campus and pretended to be the Harvard band, got on the bus and went to Cambridge and pretended to be the Yale band, waking everybody early in the morning and confusing everybody because the Harvard-Yale game was in New Haven, and then went on to Providence for the Brown game and 'pretended' to be the Columbia University Marching Band. Somehow, I think that behavior in 2019 or 2020 would end in not only administrative discipline but also, and more likely, criminal charges."

Jeff is concerned that the current solution is too restrictive but realizes that a number of alums remain active in an advisory role, and so he is confident about the future.

**George Freimarck GSAS'81** checked in: "I've entered my second year here in Munich, on behalf of Xceedance Consulting, developing business for our insurance strategic consultancy in Europe. While here, my wife, Gratia Pellicciotti BC'80, and I have engaged in quite a bit of travel throughout Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Adriatics (as opposed to the Baltics). Speaking of the Baltics, shoutout to **Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, former president of Estonia, and valedictorian of Leonia H.S. in New Jersey! I follow Toomas on Twitter (@IlvesToomas), mainly because of my interest in the Baltic region and his informed perspective on a region we often hear too little about but to which a lot more attention ought to be paid."

**Charles Martin**, as a former class correspondent, took pity on me and submitted: "Not much to report ([soon] I should have an announcement about a new mystery novel)."

He went on to say that the story collection *Hong Kong Noir* features one of his stories, "Ticket Home," was named one of the "45 Highlights from 2019" by the *Asian Review of Books*. Charles works out of a 1957 Airstream trailer in his Seattle backyard.

**John Lauer** has resided in Morgantown, Pa., for more than 33 years, and it has been almost 38 since he moved out of Astoria, N.Y. Married to Bonnie for more than 42 years and enjoying having four of their six children still home, on





Left to right, Dan Baker '76, Harvard grad Chris Daly, Harry Bauld '77 and Gara LaMarche '76 recreated the pose Bauld caricatured for an invitation in 1979 based on Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*.

occasion. John manages a Thrivent Financial office as a financial associate, only 4.4 miles from home. His new motto is "65 and still alive!"

He adds, "Medicare has been good so far, too. While life is not without health issues, I'm celebrating eight years post-prostate cancer. Also made the last two college tuition payments in January for the last two daughters, both seniors at Eastern University. One son is finishing his Ph.D. in physics at Temple, so finally there will be a 'Dr. Lauer' later this year. If you pass through Morgantown (Exit 298 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike), stop in to say hello."

Glenn Stanley GSAS'88 lives in Berlin, where he is a lecturer at Barenboim-Said Akademie there. He is also professor emeritus at the University of Connecticut. Glenn writes, "Many of you don't know me because I was at Columbia for only two years and lived at Barnard, but here goes. I started graduate school in musicology at Columbia in 1976; after my first year I spent two years in Germany studying language and music, and I met my future wife, Anka, who returned with me in 1979. I finally finished in 1987 (two years of research grants in both East and West Germany for the dissertation slowed the process, but we had fun!), taught as a visiting professor for two years at Columbia and one at McGill before settling down at the University of Connecticut with one son in tow. There we stayed until 2017, with several half-year and full-year stays in Germany and Austria, when we moved to Berlin, where we now live permanently. I love the city, and there is much less Trump here, although still too much. I am teaching at a small conservatory in Berlin, and remain active as a scholar, concentrating on Beethoven and other German composers as well as music criticism and historiography."

Quite a few classmates send in their updates with offers to host travelers who want to get in touch. Our class does not seem to be retiring to Florida, but instead is rising like a phoenix (apologies to LJC for stealing his idea) and continuing to expand our horizons. Writing this column is inspiring, and I appreciate all the back and forth as I try to create an interesting read.

If there is a classmate whom you would like to reach out to, please email me at the address at the top of this column. I would be happy to connect you.

Finally, the music will start again next week. Being a part of a Columbia family and having all of you as family members has seen me through many recent trying times. Thanks, and start planning for the 45th reunion Thursday, June 3–Saturday, June 5, 2021. Keep those updates coming!

## 1977

David Gorman  
dgorman@niu.edu

I have managed to get way behind on this column. Apologies to all concerned.

In November, Peter Basch wrote to update us on his work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which involved a side trip from Los Angeles to Cape Kennedy. He shares, "I'm on the Mars 2020 rover team at JPL, doing documentation. I'll travel to the Cape for two months! Maybe not sun, fun and sand, but certainly sun and mechanical/electrical procedures. And some sand too, I guess."

In August, Walter Heiser BUS'85 wrote to say that first, he is a project finance and development attorney based in southeast Asia (he mentions

Bangkok and Vientiane); these projects, he says, "include numerous electric power facilities — hydropower, solar, and wind and mine-mouth coal, as well as the Laos-China Railway (under construction)."

Walter considers his second piece of news to be the big one, however, since it concerns the publication of his first novel, *Brazil, Brasil... Welcome to Brasil!* The paperback is available from Barnes & Noble, the e-book from Amazon. This venture has not been without its issues. He says, "My book website has survived numerous hacking attempts from IP addresses in such exotic locales as Staten Island; North Bergen, N.J., the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. Either a former employer is concerned that my book might be exposing the antics of ex-top brass when in Brasil or Trump's Russian operatives! I did, however, change all names to protect the innocent and not-so-innocent."

Walter has a second novel, set in the Philippines, and is looking for a publisher. He is also working on a third, "set largely in 1980s–90s NYC — a surefire bestseller!"

If I am in there, Walter, please change my name.

In July (told you I'd gotten behind), Gerry Friedman wrote to say that he didn't recall when his last update was (it was 2014). Gerry is a professor of economics at UMass Amherst, and so much more, which I will attempt to sort out:

1. Teaching. Gerry writes, "I have been teaching the mega-lecture in microeconomics at UMass, with about 20 percent of the undergraduates. They know me much better than I know them, and they know my dogs, who come to class. Our older dog, Beowulf, died days after the election in 2016, despairing of what the humans had done. We now have his nephew, Corduroy, also a Standard Poodle. The dogs are much more popular than I!"

2. Administration. In the past decade, at various times, Gerry has been chair of his department, associate chair, undergraduate program director and chair of the college of social and behavioral sciences personnel committee.

3. Research. Gerry writes, "I have been very involved in the campaign for Medicare for All, preparing economic impact studies for 10 states (including New York), as well as for

the United States. This has led me to spend time on the road, and testifying in various venues, including Washington, D.C. I contributed a controversial economic study to the Bernie Sanders campaign in 2016."

4. Publication. Gerry has continued to revise his alternative microeconomics textbook, and he finished a manuscript, *The Case for Medicare for All*.

Apologies to Mike Aroney, who was identified only as "Mike" in the Fall 2019 column.

## 1978

Matthew Nemerson  
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

Thanks, everyone, for contributing to another busy column.

Michael Burros shares that he is marrying Brant Dykehouse in March. I had asked everyone, in honor of the Oscars, to give the class their movie and book picks. Michael mentioned the films *O que Arde; Longa noite; Moira; and Mientras dure la guerra*.

The Core at 100 has been a theme around campus starting last fall and was even featured at Homecoming last year. Chuck Callan notes, "I attended the relaunch of the Core Curriculum in September. It is great to see the sincere dedication of talented teaching faculty, even if for some students it's a hard sell to convince them why they should spend the time to read the 'Ancients.'"

"Priorities are the same for kids. Perhaps maybe more anxiety today about careerism and being liked. We thought it was an accomplishment to not be liked, as that meant we were imaginative and original."

"For books, I recommend Pierre Hadot's *What Is Ancient Philosophy?* Separately, for a great description of decadence and gluttony, I recently reread *The Feast of Trimalchio*. I'm not sure *The Satyricon* is still on the syllabus for Lit Hum, but it should be."

Thomas Reuter had lunch with Gerard Gallucci at Eatly in NYC. Thomas writes, "My kids are fond of telling us that we were oh-so-worried that Nintendo would rot their brains when they were young, and then we went ahead and let Fox News rot our brains."

"As for books, I suggest *Justinian's Flea* by William Rosen. It's an ambitious work that ties together



the Roman Empire, the Hagia Sophia and climate change, leading to the Plague's escape from Africa, which led to the depopulation of Europe, which led to the rise of Islam. A good read."

**Cristopher Dell**, now with his own Dell Energetix Consulting, writes, "It seems that my retirement careers have unexpectedly put me in an interesting place to watch a couple of the major issues of our time play out. I work part-time for Fieldstone, the leading independent investment bank in the African power sector; am a consultant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff/U.S. Africa Command exercise program; and have recently joined the board of an Australian startup that has licensed a lithium-ion battery anode technology that almost doubles the storage capacity of said batteries.

"We're working on a pilot facility to refine and prove the technology at scale. So somehow or the other, I'm involved in the reemergence of great power competition with Russia and China (both military and economic), and renewable energy in response to climate change. I can say with certainty I've seen its impact in changing weather patterns everywhere I've lived and clear evidence of rising sea levels.

"Fortunately, none of it demands too much of my time and I'm free to pursue things I really care about, as well. This entails spending a lot of time in Portugal, and rehabilitating an old windmill (no sign of any cancer-causing tendencies just yet, despite our Dear Leader's mad predictions); trying (and thus far failing) to learn to play the Portuguese guitar; and reading about the history of the Portuguese discoveries. After living abroad for two decades, I'm now ensconced in Crazy Town, where my wife works for USAID. That's about the only thing keeping me from moving back to Europe full time. But I must confess that Washington, D.C., has become a much livelier and more interesting town, as long as one doesn't have to get involved in the politics.

"My thoughts about our kids is that they seem much less concerned about starting a definable career."

Chris says he stays in touch with another world traveler from CC'78, **Nick Serwer**.

Staying with our class internationalists, **William Hartung**, with

the Center for International Policy, writes, "I continue to work on peace and security issues at the center, a D.C.-based think tank. Much of my writing now appears in my column at *Forbes* — a recent example is 'Don't Blunder Into War With Iran.'

"Our kids are clearly more progressive, more concerned about issues like climate, racism and gender equality. When it comes to generations and the climate, my daughter doesn't so much blame us as encourage us to rise to the occasion and do something about it now.

"I have stayed in touch with my freshman and sophomore go-to friend **Lewis Pasco** and saw **Andres Mares** during his recent NYC visit.

"As for movies, I recommend *Parasite*, and books by Jeanette Winterson or Curtis Sittenfeld."

**John A. Glusman** GSAS'80, with W.W. Norton & Co., where he is editor-in-chief, is married to Emily Bestler BC'83, publisher of Emily Bestler Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. John writes, "Our daughter Jenny is a third-year medical student, daughter Isabel is applying to graduate school in psychology and son Graham '19 will attend Vanderbilt University Law School next year. While it's hard to generalize, I think all three of our children are very conscious of their generation's interest in making the world a better place than we did. So, I'd say they're more politically engaged and socially active.

"I recently saw Barry Singer '79, owner of Chartwell Booksellers. Barry and I took Ted Tayler's legendary Shakespeare course and attended the lovely memorial service for him in Low Library, along with my author Tom Vinciguerra '85.

"Yes, climate change is real, due to a variety of factors, and there's no doubt that our coastlines are at risk and our fisheries are in peril, as is the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. Our children are quick to blame the boomers for this tragedy, and rightly so, especially when environmental regulations are being rolled back under the current administration at an appalling pace and with far too little public debate.

"Speaking of the environment, read Richard Powers's *The Overstory*, if you haven't already done so. It won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in fiction, is gorgeously written, deeply moving

and will remind you of the beautiful world we inhabit and which is now at such risk."

**Tony Dellicarri** is a retired attorney now with The Mental Health Association of Westchester as a mental health peer counselor. He writes, "I've been married 33 years and we have one daughter (25) and one son (22). I recently saw basketball friends **Joe Vidulich** and **Calvin Parker**. Climate change is real, but I would be lying if I said I did not like the warmer winters!"

**Henry Aronson** will be the music director for Sarah Silverman's show *The Bedwetter* at the Atlantic Theater Company this spring. "Yes, climate change is a terrifying reality, being exacerbated by the willful ignorance and obstructionism of Republicans and their corporate overlords."

From **Barry Sage-El**, "Enjoying my first year of retirement. My wife, Margot BC'78, and I welcomed our third grandchild, Lea, into the world in the fall. I think our kids are a lot like we were, in their early 30s now and grinding out careers and raising kids."

**Tim Weiner** JRN'79 reports, "I'm happily married for 26 years to Kate Doyle, with two beautiful daughters, and we are back in Brooklyn after a 38-year ellipsis. My sixth book, *The Folly and the Glory: America, Russia, and Political Warfare 1945–2020*, will be out in June. I hang with Joe Walker '79, my WKCR buddy, whenever possible, and I recently saw my freshman roomie, **Carl Strehlike**. None of us ever age."

**Joseph Cosgriff** writes, "I recently released *The Dog Who Took Me Up a Mountain: How Emme the Australian Terrier Changed My Life When I Needed It Most*, which I co-wrote with business leader Rick Crandall. It's about the dog that inspired Rick's late-career passion for mountain climbing. My next book will take on the 1904 American League pennant race. I have also taken a consulting position with Fans for the Cure, broadcaster Ed Randall's charity that promotes best practices around the testing for and the treatment of prostate cancer. Can't say enough about the support the charity has received from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and its team of urologists.

"As for stealing signs, the 1978 Columbia baseball team had a new coach, Paul Fernandes, so our high-

est priority was just recognizing the Columbia signs, which we more or less did in time for graduation day.

"I recently saw **Brian Altano** at the wedding of his son Erik. A marriage took place that enables **Michael Forlenza** and me to share three wonderful nephews. I am regularly in touch with my baseball teammates **Michael Wilhite**, Harry Bauld '77 and Rob Murphy '77. I hope to see my baseball teammates and classmates at Columbia baseball games at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium this spring, as usual.

"As for climate change, the science is undeniable and June, July and September of last year were the warmest of those months on record for the last 143 years. And the last decade was the warmest in recorded history. Most telling, my wine-growing friends say that past schedules have become increasingly less relevant as they plan for harvest.

"For books, I suggest *The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created* by Jane Leavy; *Our Dogs, Ourselves: The Story of a Singular Bond* by Alexandra Horowitz; *The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini* by Joe Posnanski; *Inventing Tomorrow: H. G. Wells and the Twentieth Century* by Sarah Cole; *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century* by George Packer; and *Night Boat to Tangier* by Kevin Barry. That should keep you busy for a while."

**Joseph Schachner** says, "I'm on the email list of W2AEE, the amateur radio club of Columbia University. Very nostalgic. When I retire — in three years I think — I will have to get there some time when it's open. My older daughter is expecting our second grandchild in April and no news can top that.

"I hope there will be time to avert a climate catastrophe. In the meantime, I drive a Honda Clarity plug-in hybrid vehicle, which I can charge and only use battery power to drive to and from work, all the time. So, I'm doing my part.

"This year's *Little Women* was very true to the book and I thought an overall excellent movie."

**Stuart Kricun** closes the compendium of tidbits with this news: "As many of you are probably getting prepared for your children's weddings or welcoming grandchildren, my wife and I are preparing for my son's bar mitzvah. We're working on photo montages and videos to make it a





special occasion for him. As for work, I will celebrate my 15th year at the Disney Channel at the end of May. It is the happiest place on earth!"

All is good here in New Haven — drop in if you're driving through.

## 1979

**Robert Klapper**  
robertklappermd@aol.com

This note comes from yours truly, **Robert Klapper**. Today's Columbia thought comes courtesy of Google. For me, getting into Columbia was my ticket to a better life. It propelled me on the path to medical school, thanks to St. Patricia Geisler GSAS'79. I may be Jewish but I do believe in saints, and she was the patron saint of the College. [Editor's note: For those who don't remember, Geisler was an instructor in the German department who was then appointed assistant College dean and a pre-professional advisor.]

Medical school at P&S led to training in orthopedic surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery, the last 31 years working at Cedars-Sinai and — 15,000 surgeries later — a truly wonderful life that I could never have imagined as I put my head on the pillow as a freshman at Carman Hall. I remember those days because I could not afford one of those mini-fridges and kept the milk for my cereal in a plastic bag hung outside my window to keep it cold. When I revealed this crisis in cryotherapy to my parents, they said, "Your grandma has an old icebox in the basement; you can use that." Do you remember Jackie Gleason and the sitcom *The Honeymooners*? It's the same kind of icebox Ralph Kramden used to open, telling Alice, "You're going to the moon." It had to be from the 1940s, because every time the refrigerator turned on, the channel on my roommate's radio changed stations. He wanted to kill me.

To say the least, it was a real day-to-day struggle for me financially. The only way I could afford room and board and tuition was through a scholarship. I was designated the Sykes Scholar for the Class of 1979. When I was accepted to the College, Columbia advised me of this prize. It was due to my desire to row crew as well as being pre-med. I was told I was being sponsored by a wealthy hedge fund alumnus, Macrae Sykes

CC 1933, who rode on the 1929 championship crew and had a son who wanted to be a doctor but unfortunately passed away. To honor his family, a scholarship was established.

Forty-five years later, one day I decided to google Macrae Sykes, the angel from above who helped me make my dream of graduating from the College a reality.

Through the labyrinth that is Google, I stumbled upon a financial advisor in NYC and Rye, N.Y., named Macrae Sykes. There was no way it could be him, I thought — he'd be 100-plus — but there was a phone number and I dialed it!

I was shocked when a voice on the other end of the line announced, "This is Macrae Sykes speaking." I was immediately transported back in time to Orientation Day as a freshman. I wanted to say thank you to someone related to the scholarship. The Macrae Sykes I was now talking to was, in fact, the grandson of the man who paved the way for me to go to Columbia. He told me the scholarship was an important part of his grandfather's life. He didn't have much to tell me about his grandfather and obviously I will never meet my Lorenzo de Medici, but what a powerful legacy to give and make possible a priceless journey for a poor kid from Far Rockaway.

Thank you, Google.  
Roar, lion, roar!

## 1980

**REUNION 2020**  
**JUNE 4-6**

Events and Programs Contact  
ecreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Michael C. Brown**  
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As the old song goes, "... another brick in the wall," and here we are on the cusp on our 40th reunion. Wow, time sure flies! Your Reunion Committee has been working hard on the event, scheduled for Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6, with cocktail parties, an all-class party and a class dinner, which will give us plenty of time to reconnect.

Congratulations to **Lanny Breuer** for being honored with a 2020 John Jay Award for distinguished profes-



Ed Klees '81 (second from right) celebrated his birthday on November 2 with alumni friends, left to right: Michael Kinsella '81, Kevin Fay '81, Robert Spoer '81 and Steven Coleman '83.

sional achievement. Lanny has had a distinguished career in law and government, serving Presidents and the people. He is vice-chair of Covington & Burling, one of the leading law firms in the United States.

**Mark Diller** checked in from the Upper West Side, where he was recently elected chair of Manhattan Community Board 7. Using his law career experience, he will focus on community issues like zoning, land use changes, transportation and affordable housing, to name a few. Given the amount of development occurring in NYC, Mark will be a busy man in 2020.

It is nice to see legacy admits to the College, and I was happy to learn that my former roommate **Mike Riordan**'s son Andrew is in the Class of 2023. Mike recently retired from Prisma Health, where he was the CEO of South Carolina's largest health system. Based in Greenville, Mike is on some boards and is active in his community. Looking forward to seeing him around campus.

Another legacy admit, **Pat DeSouza**'s daughter Elizabeth, will also be part of the Class of 2023. Pat is the chairman of Plain Sight, a technology company focusing on water and media.

**Stan Lazusky** checked in from Harrisburg, Pa., where he runs an executive search firm. He is working on his great American novel and looking forward to migrating south for the warmer weather.

We look forward to seeing you at the 40th reunion! Drop me a note at mbcu80@yahoo.com.

## 1981

**Kevin Fay**  
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This column contains a little of everything — joy, a request and loss. Let's begin with joy!

On November 2, I attended a birthday party (the 60th) for **Ed Klees** at the Boar's Head Resort in Charlottesville, Va. The event was hosted by his wife, Susan Klees, and included family, close friends and a few "old" classmates from Columbia. It was both celebration and roast, wonderfully done. Also present were **Michael Kinsella**, **Robert Spoer** and **Steven Coleman** '83.

By now, most of the Class of 1981 has celebrated their 60th birthday. If you would like to share memories and photographs with your classmates, by all means contact me!

I have a request from **Erik Jacobs**, who wants to know if anyone from the class still has his freshman beanie (these were produced in 1977 — yikes). Erik wants to borrow it (or at least obtain a photo), and plans to make some for 2021 in time for our 40th reunion. Mark your calendars: Thursday, June 3-Saturday, June 5, 2021.

Finally, it saddens me to report of the death of **James Haslem** '80, fellow Fiji, a beloved husband and the father of two sons. Jim was an honor student at Columbia and a graduate of Penn Law, and had a long and successful legal practice and real estate consulting firm in California.



Jim was diagnosed with ALS in July, and succumbed to this disease on November 9, 2019. For decades, the Fays exchanged Christmas cards with the Haslems — we met either in California or Washington, D.C., on various occasions. Way too soon!

Please keep in touch. Wishing the entire class the very best in 2020.

## 1982

Andrew Weisman  
columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Greetings, gents! First, I apologize to anyone who might have tried, unsuccessfully, to send an update. The columbiacollege82@gmail.com account was temporarily disabled. Not sure how this happened. Tech support informs me it was a combination of gremlins and evil spirits. Looks like we're now back in action.

Our first update this quarter comes from our accomplished and loyal classmate **Skip Parker BUS'91**. In light of his upcoming Diamond Jubilee celebration of life on planet Earth, Skip decided it was time to update us: "Over the past three years, I've become heavily involved in community affairs in my hometown of Greenwich, Conn. On November 5, I was elected to a two-year term as a delegate to Greenwich's Representative Town Meeting, the second-largest legislative body in the country, other than the U.S. Congress. I also serve on



Skip Parker '82 shared a photo from the Head of the Housatonic regatta featuring (left to right) oarsmen Jim Murphy '88, Mike McCarthy '83, himself and Terry Waldron SEAS'82 (the coxswain is an MIT grad).

the town's Harbor Management Commission and co-founded the energy sub-committee of the town's Conservation Commission, upon which I also served. I chair the Greenwich Choral Society, which is composed of 100 auditioned male and female voices performing choral masterworks with professional soloists and a chamber orchestra three times each year. I also sing with the University Glee Club of New York City, which was founded by Columbia alumni, and the Columbia Alumni Singers.

"For the past three years, I have been the treasurer of Call-A-Ride of Greenwich, which provides free car service to residents older than 60. Recently, I was appointed to the vestry of my church, and I sing in the church choir there as well. I continue to remain fit for rowing and have captained a four-oared shell for the Kings Crown Rowing Association for the last five years at the Head Of The Charles regatta.

"Recreationally, my wife and I enjoy plying the waters of Connecticut and Massachusetts in our powerboat. Our daughters graduated from the University of Virginia, Barnard College and Boston University. Professionally, my title is first VP — wealth management at UBS. In short, I work with busy professionals who work very hard and retire early!

"Near this column is a photo of my shell from the Head of the Housatonic Regatta, for which we finished third in the Masters event. The oarsmen are (left to right) Jim Murphy '88, Mike McCarthy '83, me and Terry Waldron SEAS'82. The coxswain is an MIT grad."

Skip, it's a good thing you're not planning to retire any time soon; the City of Greenwich would have its credit rating cut at least two notches!

Our second update this quarter comes from our highly honored classmate **Stephen Sullivan GSAS'13**. Steve wrote on January 3: "In about nine hours the American Historical Association (AHA) will honor me with its Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award. Columbia history professor Betsy Blackmar was the 2011 recipient, so I figure it's good to be on any list that includes her name. Ironically, I retired from my job as a public high school social studies teacher after 31 years to accept a 'too good to refuse' opportunity as research director at a

Catholic all-girls academy closer to home. I'm technically attached to the science department, but 70 percent of my girls' research involves economics, psychology, sociology, geography and history of science. The other 30 percent? Chemistry, physics, ecology, biology and engineering! Hey, I was pre-med for two years at the College! God bless the Core. Besides, I needed a new challenge. Mentoring is mentoring. Smart kids are smart kids. They keep me on my toes. It's just a little funny that the AHA decided to honor me now."

For those unfamiliar with this award, it's a big deal and we should all be really proud of Steve. I grabbed a couple of parts of the AHA press release to put this accomplishment in perspective: "The Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award for teachers of history who taught, guided, and inspired their students in a way that changed their lives. ... Once every three years, the American Historical Association's Roelker Award Committee meets to recognize the nation's best precollegiate mentor — 'to honor teachers of history who taught, guided, and inspired their students in a way that changed their lives.' At first glance, the AHA decision to grant one of its most prestigious prizes to Sacred Heart Academy's Science Research Director might seem curious. However, if one considers Dr. Sullivan's long career, and expansive and interdisciplinary definition of historical and scientific research, their thinking becomes clear. Between 1987 and 2019, Stephen's students have earned literally hundreds of national awards in humanities, social science and natural science competitions. Said Sullivan, 'I teach research, not history, psychology or biology, per se.' According to Science Chair Beth Feinman, M.D., '[t]his is a wonderful recognition of all that Dr. Sullivan brings to the Research Department and underscores that 'science' is more a critical way of thinking than just a discipline. Stephen has helped us widen SHA's perspective and broadened the scope of what we can offer our students through the lens of non-traditional sciences."

Congratulations, Steve! Obviously well deserved!

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I must inform everyone that beloved classmate **John Dawson**, after a valiant fight against an aggressive cancer, passed away on

October 13, 2019. John earned a B.A. in political science, was a former president of Delta Psi, a member of the men's heavyweight crew and an active alum, where he was part of the Kings Crown Rowing Association.

John enjoyed attending Columbia's annual Homecoming festivities and was a season ticket holder for Columbia basketball games, which he enjoyed attending with his son, Johnny. He was also an enthusiastic golf and racquet sportsman, especially tennis. He is survived by his wife, Anusia, and son, Johnny, and will be sorely missed by all his friends and classmates.

## 1983

Roy Pomerantz  
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I am deeply saddened by the passing of fellow Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors member and CCT class correspondent Michael Oberman '69, Harvard Law School '72 on October 15, 2019. **Kenny Chin** was a partner with Michael at Kramer Levin and attended the funeral. Kenny learned that Michael's family had a setback when he attended Columbia; Michael never forgot the help he received during college and became a lifelong supporter of CC. He personally contacted classmates for CCT and would vent to me when his calls were not returned. His column was always one of the most informative. He was an inspiration to me and will be sorely missed.

My sons, Ricky and David, and I attended a number of CC football and pre-conference CC basketball games. We met Alton Byrd '79, VP of business operations for the Long Island Nets. He holds Columbia's record for career assists (526). Alton was drafted by the Celtics and was a star player in Europe for almost 20 years.

My daughter, Rebecca, will attend Hamilton College this fall.

In honor of the Core Centennial, Cathy Popkin, the Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities, spoke about Lit Hum at a recent CCAA board meeting. She said the conversation now is focused on how we are all different. The intellectual workout reading a text like *The Iliad* stems from the story





In case you missed this photo in the Winter 2019–20's issue's "Just Married!" section, here it is again: On August 25, Neal Smolar '83 and Betsy Chutter Smolar BC'85's daughter was married in Paterson, N.J., with several CC'83 friends in attendance. Top row, left to right: Smolar, Len Rosen '83 and Adam Bayroff '83; and bottom row, left to right: Miriam Kushner BC'83, Steve Arenson '83, Eddy Friedfeld '83 and Larry Herman '83.

being so alien to us. The discussion about homosexuality in Plato used to be uncomfortable. Students now are much more inclusive. There are a thousand different conversations. Students are instructed not to read with awe and reverence. Everyone, including the professor, is learning together. Lit Hum and CC are one-year courses. Being in a Lit Hum or CC class is like living intellectually with 22 roommates every year. These classes require determination. They are hard. People gasp. But there is a huge alteration in the chemistry of the room at the end of the year. Everyone celebrates what they have achieved together. These classes redirect students from collecting achievements on their transcript or résumé to pursuing an intellectual exercise. Just like *Seinfeld* is a show about nothing, Lit Hum is a course about nothing. It's just about being human. Having a conversation. Approaching a text with Beginner's Mind. One funny remark was that she never met a student who actually read Thucydides. Maybe that's why it's off the syllabus. But CC has added important authors like Virginia Woolf and Toni Morrison. Professor Popkin said her favorite text is Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, which I read during my recent business trip to China. Quite a contrast

to the last book in my Kindle, *Howard Stern Comes Again*.

I attended Eddy Friedfeld's NYU Tisch School of the Arts class "Sid Caesar, Milton Berle, Lucille Ball and The Golden Age of Comedy." It was a tour de force and brilliantly funny. It was one of the most enjoyable evenings I had last summer.

On September 22, I attended the seventh annual Les Nelkin [SEAS'87, LAW'87] Pediatric Cancer Survivors Day. Les's sister, Amy Nelkin '89, LAW'91, also attended. I miss Les and think about him often.

From Marcus Brauchli: "For the last six years, I've been at North Base Media (NBM), a venture capital firm that has enjoyed reasonable success focusing on media and media-tech in the world's growth markets. I co-founded the firm after leaving the Washington Post Co., where I spent five years as executive editor and later was a senior advisor to the Graham family. My co-founder, Sasa Vucinic, previously played a big role in fostering independent media in post-communist eastern and central Europe and has an investment background to balance out my overweighted journalism résumé. We help to build quality media for the next few billion people coming online. Our portfolio includes a number of leading news, business-information, sports and entertainment digital startups in Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Mexico and Taiwan. NBM's general counsel is Stuart Karle '82, who was the *Wall Street Journal*'s general counsel when I was the top editor there and long ago my hard-driving boss at *Spectator*.

"My two daughters are in college, one studying engineering at Colorado University in my hometown of Boulder, the other a freshman at NYU Shanghai, a city where my wife, Maggie Farley, and I spent five of our 15 years as reporters in Asia. Maggie left the *Los Angeles Times* and now works with Google's news initiative."

From Jacob Rabinowitz: "This is the first time I have responded to an alumnus update request. I recently published my memoirs (link: amzn.to/37gee7p). The chapter 'What Sex Are I?' deals, inter alia, with my time at Columbia, and what it meant to be gender-fluid so many years before it was known by that convenient name. The preview pages on Amazon give a fair impression of the book.

"I have had a more interesting and picaresque life than anyone who

I have seen as the subject of a feature in *CCT*, particularly in view of my long and complicated relationship with Allen Ginsberg '48, which is dealt with in detail in the book."

From Walter Roberts III: "Exploring the Core Curriculum has continued to be the driving force in my life. In 2006 I earned a Ph.D. in classics from UC Berkeley, after which I held positions at UMass Amherst and the University of Vermont. Ever eager to popularize the Great Books, my work at UVM was diverted by an aspiration to return Greek and Latin to the Detroit public schools. In pursuit of this goal, in 2012 I resigned my position there as assistant professor and returned to Detroit to found a 501(c)3: the Detroit Greek and Latin Educational Foundation. Six years and \$300,000 later, our team was forced to accept that reviving Greek and Latin was not within the orbit of K–12 educators in the city of Detroit. Don Quixote going after those windmills!

"Eldercare duties now confine me both to Detroit and to my own home, where I attend to my Alzheimer's-afflicted mother. Despite these constraints, I continue my mission as a teacher of Greek and Latin. Most recently I have begun producing series on YouTube videos, the main project being a full-scale elementary Greek course based on Clyde Pharr's *Homeric Greek: A Book for Beginners*. As high schools and colleges across the country continue to cut back on their Ancient Greek offerings, I'm personally relieved to be able to create such a course and know that ultimately anyone anywhere will be able to appropriate the gem of my Columbia experience — a working knowledge of Homeric Greek.

"I am in daily touch with Dr. Langham Gleason '84, with whom I play chess on the chess.com site under the handle 'NoCapa.' I welcome challenges from chess-playing class members. Recently, when in NYC for Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, it was a pleasure to reconnect with former dean Michael Rosenthal GSAS'67. We had a pleasant early afternoon chat at The Hungarian Pastry Shop."

From Kurt Lundgren: "I am a law partner in Thwaites, Lundgren & D'Arcy, in Harrison, N.Y. Married to Teresa for 23 years, with two boys, Christopher (21) and Alec (17), and a dog, Harley. I live in New City, N.Y.

"I stay in touch with baseball buddies Glenn Meyers '85 and Michael DiChiaro '84. Glenn lives in West Nyack, N.Y., and Dich lives in Mahwah, N.J. Also, Frank Antonelli lives in Charlestown, N.C., where he owns a golf course and organizes golf events around the country. John McGivney works for the federal government in a capacity that if he told us ... well, let's just say he has 00 status. Eugene Larkin '84, a former World Series hero who now is a financial broker in Minnesota, recently saw William Ebner '73 and his wife, Virginia, while voting. Bill is our former coach and runs operations at the local JCC and, at 70, looks terrific. Also, our former baseball coach and Columbia University Athletics Hall of Famer Paul Fernandes is doing well, as is his wife, Kathy; they split their time between New Jersey and Florida and enjoy time with the grandkids. Frank Lofaso SEAS'83 is doing well and lives on Long Island.

"Earlier this year several alums attended a beautiful memorial service at Robert K. Kraft Field for our dear friend Michael J. Allen '82, who died of natural causes. Everyone who played ball with Mike came away from the experience with great memories. We still repeat Mike Allen stories among each other — he was a greater-than-life personality in those days. He was a true friend and a great teammate."

## 1984

Dennis Klainberg  
dennis@berkley.com

Congratulations to Dr. Mark Trolce, who recently was appointed professor of ob/gyn at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. His new book, *The Fertility Doctor's Guide to Overcoming Infertility: Discovering Your Reproductive Potential and Maximizing Your Odds of Having a Baby*, was released in January and offers patients and their families a guide to the struggles and realities of the infertility treatment process, along with no-holds-barred advice about misinformation, exaggerated claims, and unnecessary and unhelpful treatments.

"Infertility," says Mark, "is a disease I personally battled and is a



painful, heart-wrenching problem that brings with it both emotional and financial risk. One of my reasons for writing this book was to help the reader be proactive and be their own advocate."

It's 2001 all over again as Hal meets **Kenny Tung** LAW'87, "the AI guy." From Kenny: "Here is a link to my article on AI and lawyers published in November: [bit.ly/2RzwjI5](http://bit.ly/2RzwjI5). Comments and feedback will be greatly appreciated."

Short, sweet, to the point ... but did he write this?

A renewed journey for **David Prager Branner**. After the death of his mother, and months in New York handling the estate, David has again relocated to Taiwan. He writes, "I have wanted to live [there] for the long term ever since I got out of college. I expect to be back in New York for the summer months each year for the next few years; the rest of the time, Taiwan will be home. I hope to get permanent residence."

"In 1985, the pressure of 'the future' obliged me to leave Taipei for New York, graduate school and all that. But now 'the future' is over and I'm fortunate in being able to come back and immerse myself in Chinese language again. My wife, YSJ (Yeo Shujen, given name Shujen) is working on her calligraphy and I'm improving my Chinese by reading hard pre-modern literature and translating it into Mandarin. My teacher is a career language teacher who is normally trapped dealing with beginner students. Frankly, I think it's salutary for her to be working with a student of my level,

reading things she would never have picked up on her own. Right now we're finishing a piece, written in a late imperial style of Classical Chinese, on the first moon landing in 1969. I'm not sure if I will get a job here, but the next two years, at least, will consist of training in Chinese and, I hope, the completion of some long-unfinished book projects."

It's 2020, so all eyes on **Steven Odrich** PS'88: "My wife and I recently moved back to Manhattan after raising our kids in Westchester. Two of our three daughters are out in the workforce and daughter number 3 is finishing her senior year of undergrad coursework at Boston University. We just paid our last tuition bill and had a big party! My wife is an architect practicing in Brooklyn and I'm an ophthalmologist practicing in Manhattan and Riverdale."

**Mark Binder**'s latest book, *The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul*, has rocketed to the top of the charts and is the number 1 bestseller in the category "Short, humorous and romantic novels set in an Eastern European Jewish Village." He will begin his second European capitals book and spoken story tour in March, with stops in Vienna, London and Copenhagen.

Shoutout to **Scott Avidon**, who, while attending the January 5 Jewish solidarity march in NYC, bumped into yours truly, **Dennis Klainberg**. While we were stuck behind the barricades waiting for our time to join the parade, none other than former heavyweight crew member Ed Joyce '83 was seen passing by at the head of the parade, along with Mayor Bill

DiBlasio and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.). With thanks to **CCT** class correspondent Roy Pomerantz '83, we have learned that Ed is an attorney in NYC with Jones Day and has become quite the bike enthusiast, helping raise money through rides such as the Wheels of Love (where he has met my virtual cousin and super-close family friend, attorney Jonathan Lupkin '89, LAW'92, founding member of Lupkin PLLC). Ed also co-founded the Grumpy Roadsters cycling team to raise "a few dollars and shekels for the Muslim, Christian and Jewish children of ALYN Hospital in Jerusalem."

Faster than a speeding bullet ... no wait ... my Spidey sense is telling me ... it's **Carr D'Angelo**, owner of Earth-2 Comics in Sherman Oaks, Calif.!

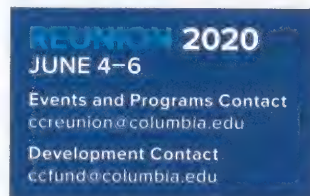
Carr writes, "I am proud to be a contributor to the book *Selling Comics: The Guide to Retailing and Best Practices in the Greatest Modern Artform*, for the benefit of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. The book was compiled and edited by Alex Cox, who once owned Rocketship, the best comic book shop in Brooklyn. I remember starting my shop 17 years ago with not a lot of resources, so I was happy to help pinpoint the challenges faced going into this retail business. I wrote about how to stock your store for your opening, as that was the question I kept asking in 2002. Besides, I always like to exercise those Freshman Comp muscles when I can."

If you have forgotten — and we're all in our 50s so, you might have! — earlier in his career, Carr was a movie producer (for Rob Schneider's *The Hot Chick* and *The Animal*) and writer for magazines and the entertainment industry.

Another charitable venture Carr organized was a fundraiser for The HERO Initiative. He says, "Our good friend and customer, actor/comedian/producer Jeff Garlin, donated valuable vintage comics (like the first appearance of the Silver Surfer!) that we started selling at an event in November; we still have some for sale. All proceeds go to HERO, a nonprofit that provides financial and medical assistance to comic book creators in need. As freelancers, many of these fine folks don't have all the resources available to them later in life, and HERO makes a difference."

Check out the "Just Married!" section in this issue to see a photo from **Thomas Coffin Willcox's** recent wedding!

## 1985



**Jon White**  
[jw@whitecoffee.com](mailto:jw@whitecoffee.com)

You should have recently received information about Columbia Reunion 2020, set for Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. I hope to see many of you there and to catch up in person.

The Columbia women's rowing program officially dedicated the *Deantini* in honor of Dean James J. Valentini at the annual Kings Crown Rowing Association Banquet earlier this year. The boat was a generous gift from **Tom Cornacchia**, a longtime supporter of Columbia rowing. The *Deantini* will be the women's varsity eight racing shell this spring. Tom was a four-year letter winner for heavyweight rowing and capped his career by rowing in the stroke seat. He rowed alongside **Colin Redhead**, coxswain Phil Gold '87, Dave Silvera '86 and Jim Hammond '87.

"I'm a big supporter of all of our rowing programs, but I'm particularly supportive of our women's program at Columbia," said Tom at the event. "Our women's program can bring a lot to this institution and the athletes who come to the table."

**Paul Bongiorno** is a residential and commercial real estate agent based at Keller Williams Midtown Direct in Maplewood, N.J. He would be happy to help any classmates with their home or office property needs.

Congratulations to Hon. **Gary Brown**, who was finally confirmed by the United States Senate to take his seat on the federal bench for the Eastern District of New York!

**Jeffrey Katz's** recently published book, *The Secret Life*, charted as a number 1 new release on Amazon. The book explores the pioneering work in the field of unconditional love done by the Jewish scholar

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!

CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.







Joe Titlebaum '85 (second from left) received a lifetime achievement award from The National Pancreas Foundation in November. Joining him were, left to right: Mike Goldfischer '86, Jim Hirshfield SEAS'87 and Gary Ireland GS'86.

Maimonides. It also explains his teachings on charity and how developing a healthy emotional detachment from money and material things leads to bliss and prosperity. The book is also available at Barnes & Noble as well as everywhere else books and e-books are sold.

Look for the "Lions" profile of architect **Richard Maimon** elsewhere in this issue.

**Mark Rothman** continues to build his practice as a progress coach. He writes, "I help my clients achieve and maintain continual forward progress in every area of their lives. Achievements and milestones come and go, and even philosophical definitions of success can be limiting. But the ability to maintain progress carries us from peak to peak and through valley after valley. My first book, *Stop Playing Small: An A to Z Guide to Living Your Bigger, Better Life* (available on Amazon), which explores many of the key concepts I use in my coaching, came out last year.

"My wife, Vicki, and I are currently enjoying a few days with our youngest son, Noah, between his time finishing with the Israeli army and heading to Mammoth Mountain to work at the resort and ski. Son Eitan SEAS'17 completed almost seven months of world travel and will be an assistant coach to the Columbia heavyweight crew (I would pay *them* to do that ...). Saul, our oldest, looks forward to finishing his computer science degree at the end of the summer and joining Israel's tech industry. And Vicki's industriousness seems to know no bounds; in addition to being the faculty leader at the Santa Monica College Career Services Center, she's teaching a mini-course in career development to econ master's students at UCLA

and maintaining a thriving private practice as a career counselor."

**Tom Wheeler** is in private practice maternal fetal medicine in Fort Wayne, Ind. His son serves in the Marine Corps at MCB Camp Pendleton in San Diego.

**Andrew Hayes** was thrilled to come back to Morningside Heights in September to help his son Liam SEAS'23 move into Wallach. "Most striking change — so much good quality food available right on campus," he says.

In addition to Andrew, congratulations to proud parents **John Balian**, **Basil Hosmer**, **Josh Hyman**, **Serge Ozerov** (twins in the freshman class!) and **Seth Schachner**, whose children continue the tradition as members of the Class of 2023!

**Joe Titlebaum** is still in the Washington, D.C., area, working with startup companies through Black Lab Venture Studio, which funds and incubates startups at the intersection of technology and regulation. He says, "On the philanthropic side, in November 2019 I received a lifetime achievement award from The National Pancreas Foundation in recognition of my service as the chairman of the board 2009–19. The NPF provides hope for those suffering from pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer through funding cutting-edge research, advocating for new and better therapies, and providing support and education for patients, caregivers and health care professionals. In addition to my wife, Julie, and our son, Benjamin '19, my friends and fraternity brothers Mike Goldfischer '86, Jim Hirshfield SEAS'87 and Gary Ireland GS'86 joined me at the event in New York City."

**Aaron Freiwald** is celebrating 20th anniversary of his trial practice

in Philly, Freiwald Law. His weekly podcast, *Good Law|Bad Law* ([law-podcast.com](http://law-podcast.com)), continues to grow and is now one of the leading law-related podcasts in the country. He is married to Stacey and lives in Bryn Mawr, Pa. He says, "Hands full with three kids, three stepkids, two pugs and two Bengals!"

**Greg Jarrin** will miss our reunion, as he will be venturing to Anchorage, Alaska, for the first time as the organizer of the Indian Health Service Annual Surgeons Conference. He has been organizing this conference for more than 20 years. Greg is the Indian Health Service chief clinical consultant for surgery; the group is always looking to recruit surgeons to serve its Native population. Feel free to contact Greg at [tubasurgeon@yahoo.com](mailto:tubasurgeon@yahoo.com) if you can help or have questions about the conference or his work.

You might be aware that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Core Curriculum (there was a feature article, "First Class," on Contemporary Civilization in the Winter 2019–20 issue). I encourage everyone to share their Core memories, the Core's impact on their lives and so on.

My best Core memories include being awoken by my Art Hum professor as I dozed near the projector when the lights had been turned off for my 9:10 a.m. class (but I still remember enough to be competent in a museum now); sitting in the first row of Carnegie Hall for the New World Symphony (performed by a Czech orchestra with pride beyond description); and having the good fortune to find one of my favorite Stuyvesant friends, Beth Knobel BC'84, in line for signing up for Lit Hum sections (back in the day when you had to stand in line for that stuff) and her letting me join her to sign up for Wallace Gray's section (a class I will never forget that brought me new appreciation for literature and differing perspectives about things). Those Core classes really did provide an amazing foundation for critical thinking and writing, as well as being exposed to things I never would have taken voluntarily. Your recollections are welcome at [core100.columbia.edu/community](http://core100.columbia.edu/community) or in this column.

See you on campus soon — and keep your great updates coming either way!

## 1986

**Everett Weinberger**  
[everett6@gmail.com](mailto:everett6@gmail.com)

Happy 2020! It's amazing to me that we've already experienced the '60s, which we barely remember; the '70s, which made us love classic rock; the '80s, when we truly grew up; the '90s, when we worked our butts off; the '00s, when the internet amazed us; and the '10s, when the iPhone became umbilically attached to our hands. Given the pace of change, I'm excited to see what this decade has in store. Drop me a line if you have any thoughts to share.

Our class held its own for admissions to the Class of 2023. A hearty congratulations to **Charles Atkins** and daughter Charlotte; **Nino Dobrovic** and son Luke; **Scot Glasberg** and son Alexander; and **Ben Schmidt** and daughter Isabel; and special recognition to **Ed Law**, who managed to get his two sons, Christian and Jackson, accepted to the Class of '23! And congrats on transfer admissions for the Class of 2022 to **Katharina Otto-Bernstein** and son Jonathan; and **Clifford Simms** and daughter Thalia von Moltke-Simms.

**Robert Zifchak** sent us a nice update replete with philosophical musings: "My wife, Suzanne, and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary on September 10. It's been a blast, to say the least. Unfortunately, the schedule the kids keep prevented anything other than a nice dinner at a local place we love. While on our way to the restaurant, I received a call from a retirement counselor about my plans to retire at 60. When my wife figured out what the call was about she took over the conversation and told him I was never retiring and not to call again. We had a good laugh. Sadly, I've been forced to adjust my plans.

"We've been blessed with two beautiful girls who keep us busy. Our eldest, Julia, turned 16 last February and the Sweet 16 party was almost as big as our wedding! More than 100 guests plus the D.J., emcee, photographer, photo booth, centerpiece gifts for the court (bridal party-equivalent) and a bunch of things I'm probably forgetting. I drove all over New Jersey fetching assorted things for about two



months, plus made three trips to the venue to pre-stage things. Quite an extravaganza. Apparently, this is the big thing with her age group these days — each party tries to outdo the previous one. I think we came in fourth place but they haven't stopped yet so our final position is TBD. I'm happy to report Sue took care of all the details. I was just the gofer and bank.

"Julia's starting to drive. She's doing well, but our greatest fear is she'll be screwing with her phone and have a problem. I guess that's every parent's worry. I looked into a device that would disable her phone while the car was running but they are illegal. FCC regulations, apparently. The college search is proceeding. I'm pushing for Michigan or Stanford but Sue thinks they are too far away. Columbia is in the running but Julia wants to teach and a lot of the staff in our local school system went to Delaware and have recommended the teaching curriculum there heavily, so that's her first choice (as of this week). UNC and Duke have come up but they fall in the 'too far away' category. When Julia said she wanted to take a year off after high school I told her that year is called United States Army in this house, so that idea evaporated quickly.

"Our younger daughter, Amanda, has decided she's going to attend Rutgers, play professional soccer and teach after she retires. Remember how simple things were when you were 12?

"Professionally, I still support the IT infrastructure for Deutsche Bank, but when DB outsourced its IT department to Hewlett-Packard

I went with it. HP promptly split into HP and HPE, and HPE merged with CSC to form DXC Technology. I ended up working for four companies doing the same job in less than a year. The cool part is I get paid to play with the latest and greatest technologies all day. I even get my hands on beta components before they are available to the public. Makes going to work an adventure instead of a job."

Congrats to **Bill Teichner** for being named managing partner of Frontier Capital Management, a Boston-based investment company. Bill co-manages its small-cap value fund.

Congrats also to Bill for winning CCT's first Core Centennial Cartoon Caption Contest. His winning caption was announced on page 2 of the Winter 2019–20 issue. As part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum, longtime *New Yorker* magazine contributor Edward Koren '57 provided CCT with a Core-related cartoon in need of a caption for the Fall 2019 issue and asked for caption submissions. Assuming you don't search for the cartoon, it shows four students sitting around a book-strewn table with a professor at the head wearing a T-shirt that says "The Core." They are all holding mini gothic pillars in both arms above their heads, like weights. Bill's winning caption was, "Enough warm-ups already! When are we going to roll boulders with Sisyphus?"

Well done, Bill! I always read *The New Yorker's* cartoon caption contests and I can tell you that this one was up there in difficulty and obscurity.

## 1987

**Sarah A. Kass**  
SarahAnn29uk@gmail.com

After the tragic loss of **Alex Navab** last summer, I put out a call for reflections. Jared Goldstein '89 sent the following: "Alex had reason to dislike me. Even though he was a senior and I was a sophomore, I campaigned against him in the Student Council election. I was pretty much his foil when we served the prior year.

"He ran meetings fairly and well. When the campus was in turmoil, he held hearings on the topic. He was athletic, self-assured, suave, great haircut, pre-finance, fraternity. This is put-

ting it nicer than I would have in 1987. I assumed he was a Conservative, and I had little idea that on top of it all, he was a scholar. My coalition was anti-Conservative; more like Farnald Grocery, Reality Fest, arts, progressives and maybe identity groups.


"I won that election, and Alex rose to the occasion, putting duty over what might have been distaste. He gave me the keys, a tour of the office and a letter that council chairs

ment, the year 1986 was listed! I had always thought that we finished second that year.

"So, like the millennial wannabe I am, I whipped out my phone and looked it up. Lo and behold, our 1986 team is credited with the Ivy League Title that year — with an asterisk. So, what gives, you might ask?

"Back then we played in the Eastern Intercollegiate Baseball League, which consisted of all the

### Core Haiku



During a cool fall  
Dr. Bilgrami let us  
think and speak deeply.

— Ethan M. Singer '87

wrote to their successors. Alex's classiness was a great example.

"The following year, the council was in strife. With a junior as council chair, there were miffed seniors and some striving juniors readying for a rematch through obstructionism and confrontation. It was pulling the institution apart. I invited my predecessors back. Alex and Dave Leibowitz '85 returned to address us, and it did some good.

"I saw Alex on the Steps 20 years later at a reunion and thanked him for his support of the College. He was modest about it and kind. Very graceful.

"He made a great impact on my sense of loyalty and duty. I am sure that he is tremendously missed by those who were close with him."

Thank you for this, Jared!

Switching gears, **Derrick Acker** shared a story: "I played baseball at Columbia 1983–87 and cherished every second. We had a very good team but would always come up a little short of an Ivy League title — at least that's what I thought for the past 30-odd years.

"A few weekends ago, I was at Baker Field (well, that's what we used to call it) with my older son, Ty, who was attending a Columbia baseball prospect camp. The camp was run by Columbia's head baseball coach, Brett Boretti. As I was standing on the ramp leading down to the field I noticed, listed on the left field wall, all the Columbia baseball Ivy League titles. To my astonish-

Ivy League teams in addition to Army and Navy. In 1986, Navy won the EIBL Championship and we were awarded the Ivy League championship, as the first-place Ivy League team.

"At the time of this monumental discovery, I was standing on the ramp with Frank Seminara '89, who was as surprised as I was about this turn of events. I called **Mike Telesca**, and he thought I was joking. I even called our 1986 head coach, Paul Fernandes, who was also surprised. Indeed, we were all at a loss. Neither the Ivy League nor Columbia ever told us that we were the Ivy League champs that year. Suffice it to say, I made my son call me 'Champ' the rest of the day.

"I guess my only question is: When do we get our Ivy League Championship rings? We've been waiting 33 years ...."

## 1988

**Eric Fusfield**  
eric@fusfield.com

It was good to hear from **Jessica Vitkus**, the first classmate I have met who is currently an elementary school parent, like I am. "I'm a field producer at *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and I love it," she writes. "Excited for the roller coaster of an election year. I have 6-year-old twin daughters, which is also a roller coaster ride. Wheeee!"



**Submit  
Your  
Photo**



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





Moving from elementary school parents to Columbia College alum parents, my Washington, D.C.-area neighbor **Abha Jain Sinha** wrote, "I am easing into retirement. Life is happy and busy with a lot of travel. The College's Core Conversations book club inspired me to attempt to reread the Core, and it's been interesting to revisit it with a more mature perspective. I am thrilled to watch my son (CC'17) become involved in alumni life. And my daughter has launched her own company (Illumix) in the augmented reality mobile gaming space, with a new game: Five Nights at Freddy's: AR ... check it out!"

News from **Lawrence Trilling**, a parent of a current College student: "I live in my hometown of Los Angeles with my wife, Jennifer Kattler BC'88. I have been working in film and television for more than 20 years as a director, writer and producer. I'm the executive producer and showrunner of *Goliath*, which stars Billy Bob Thornton and streams on Amazon Prime. I've been spending more time on campus the past two years; my daughter Lyla '22 lives in McBain. I also have a son, Jonah, who attends DePaul University, and my daughter Dahlia is a junior in high school. I remain close to many of my CC'88 friends."

**Steve Stastny** has "lived and practiced law in Birmingham, Ala., for over 25 years," he reports. "After having practiced at various national firms, I have been a solo practitioner since 2011. I am AV-rated and dual listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for employment litigation (defense) and commercial litigation. My wife, Lauren, and I have two sons, John Michael (17) and Ross (14)."

Finally, **Mark Timoney** BUS'93 writes, "Although I have done some class agent work [with the Columbia College Fund], I am not well known to most of our class. I was an off-campus commuter — more common during our time. Now I live in Westchester County and commute to Manhattan, where I work in banking. I am with the Japanese group MUFG Bank; my focus is structured trade finance. My wife, Maria, and I have four grown kids. At the time of writing, our oldest daughter is expecting a boy in early February. We are very happy and excited to receive our first grandchild!"

"My brother **Michael Timoney** GS'99 is a surgeon with NYU Langone," Mark adds. "He lives in New York with his family. My other siblings, Maria Teresa Timoney NRS'98, NRS'99, and Francis Xavier Timoney GS'84, also live in New York with their families. Our parents, John H. Timoney '54 and Ana Timoney, both are well. They live in the Princeton area. John stays in contact with several of his classmates. Am I a lucky guy or what?"

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you.

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
emilymilesterry@me.com

**Rusty Kosiorek** attended our 30th reunion, and wrote to share how reunion struck a chord and triggered memories of our time at Columbia.

He writes, "Our reunion reminded me how the Core Curriculum is the flowing blood of Columbia. Back in that early autumn of 1985, I recall the terror of not knowing what an *Iliad* was or that I was expected to have read the first six chapters of it on day one of Literature Humanities. I proceeded to immediately quit football, sequester myself nightly in the harsh light of the Carman basement and wrestle with this Core Curriculum. I went to every class and read every book of every course for the next two years. Those books and the teaching instruction and the perspectives from my classmates were all formative. How I read, watch, think, react — all of it was catalyzed by Columbia.

"I've had solid, interesting work at Merck & Co. in sales or marketing for 30 years, a stalwart spouse for just as long and three caring kids. And I see Columbian friends every year when **Brian Thomson** hosts me, **Greg Watt**, **Roger Rubin**, **Steve Toker**, **Craig Blackmon** '88, **Paul Shaneyfelt** '90 and **Marc Eames** SEAS'90 at his island fort deep in the wooded lake of the great Parry Sound north of Toronto. This pack took a sojourn last summer to have a quality drink-up with **Gil Greenman** in Seattle — a most fortunate classmate who mentally and physically pounds down his multiple sclerosis like he did our rugby opponents when we played together as Lions.

What Rainer Maria Rilke called the 'beauty and terror' of life. For that is what the Core Curriculum — what Columbia — made us fit."


I'm writing this column on the eve of 2020, with lots of exciting news about our class, not the least of which is the just-announced John Jay Award recipients, with three '89ers out of the six: **Victor Mendelson**, co-president of HEICO Corp. in Florida; **Michael Barry**, president of Ironstate Development Co. in New Jersey; and **Wanda Marie Holland Greene**, head of school at The Hamlin School in San Francisco. Some of you might remember that the first recipient from our class, and the first woman recipient, was **Stephanie Falcone Bernik**, who has been the chief of surgical oncology at Lenox Hill Hospital for 10 years and lives in New Jersey with her family.

**Jason Carter** wrote from Washington, D.C., expressing his regrets on not attending reunion, and to share he had recently completed his tenure as a member of the District of Columbia board on professional responsibility, a position responsible for adjudicating misconduct allegations against lawyers. Jason

email me and I'll send you the link — but, of course, I will demand a lengthy personal update for Class Notes in return.

**Danielle Maged** BUS'97 continues to be another star in our CC'89 galaxy — last November, she joined Global Citizen as its chief growth officer. Global Citizen is the world's most powerful advocacy movement to end extreme poverty, tackle climate change and reduce inequality by 2030. Of her new position, Danielle says, "At a time where every single voice can be heard, I am thrilled to be able to help grow the movement and offer my expertise to advance Global Citizen's reach and purpose. There's a huge opportunity to cultivate additional partners in media and technology, sports organizations and athlete ambassadors, among others excited by the power of the mission and what we can collectively achieve."

Danielle received a 2017 *Ad Age* Women to Watch Award; is on *Adweek's* 2017 List of Disruptors; was a 2013 WISE (Women in Sports and Events) Woman of the Year; and was a 2012 *Sports Business Journal* Game Changer: Women in Sports Business honoree. Danielle's



**Core Haiku**

My first opera,  
what an unexpected gift.  
A lifetime passion.

— Lisa Carnoy '89

writes, "If that's sort of boring, you can add that my goal is to visit every country in the world, but the clock is running — I'm only at 68. Folks can look me up when they are in the area: jec78@caa.columbia.edu."

Jason is also a veteran of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division, and spent his career chasing fugitives, their money and the evidence against them around the globe. Jason also negotiates law enforcement treaties on behalf of the United States. He says it might be easier to find fugitives than our CC'89 Facebook group.

To find our group, you might need the exact name: "Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates." If you still can't find it,

operating experience spans Fox Sports, *National Geographic*, NBA, ESPN, Madison Square Garden and eBay/StubHub. She lives in New York with her husband, Greg, and two sons, whom she has gotten to join Global Citizen and take action!

Writer and activist **Erica Etelson** has penned her first book, *Beyond Contempt: How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide*, which shows us how to communicate respectfully, passionately and effectively across the political divide. *Beyond Contempt* grew out of Erica's work as a certified Powerful Non-Defensive Communication facilitator and former human rights attorney, when she advocated in support of welfare recipients, prisoners, indigenous



peoples, immigrants and environmental activists. Erica has also organized for clean, community-owned energy as part of a just transition to a local, low-carbon economy. Her articles have appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Mercury News* (San Jose), *The Progressive Populist*, *Truthout* and *AlterNet*. Erica lives with her husband and son in Berkeley, Calif.

I'll close with a poem from **Matt Engels**, who in his capacity as CC'89 class president penned this for us:

In 2020:

Let's rally around alma mater,  
with other ways to support the  
College that really matter.

Why not interview prospective  
candidates under ARC?

Supporting College admissions hits  
it out of the park.

Or how about mentoring a student?  
Guiding a young mind with your  
wisdom and prudence.

For our Class of '89, Thom Chu  
chairs ARC, and Jeff Udell is  
over mentors,

reach out to these two any time, or  
touch base with any of your class  
committee members.

Looking to May, what can we say,  
we've opened reunion for all  
classes to play.

Look for the info, coming your way,  
we'll show the Class of '90 the  
Class of '89 way.

At the start of the new decade, your  
class committee wishes you well.  
Proud to be CC'89, as we're sure you  
can tell.

Peace, joy and happiness to you and  
yours for 2020!

## 1990

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

Rachel Cowan Jacobs  
younggrache@hotmail.com

The Reunion Committee is working hard on our 30th reunion. Outreach chairs **Judy Shampianer** and **John Vincenti** are encouraging everyone

in the class to attend (Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6) and to sign up at [college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion). I am five for five on reunion attendance and am very excited for our next one. They are so fun! At our first four, I always enjoyed the Saturday dinner and was envious of the class that got to have theirs in the Low Rotunda. I knew we'd have to wait our turn. The dinner in Low for our 25th surpassed my expectations. Rumor has it that our class bumped the 50th reunion folks from Low because our numbers were so huge! (Administration, care to confirm or deny this?)

As your class correspondent of 19 years, I challenge all of you reading this to register for reunion and to make your travel plans now. Don't miss the opportunity to reunite with longtime and newer friends, enjoy some lectures, tour campus and see how much it has changed since the last time you were there (I'm especially talking to those of you who haven't been to campus since 1990, or even 2005!), and relive our glory days of undergrad.

If you're the competitive type, you might be chagrined to learn that Columbia alumni are far outnumbered by our peer institutions in our number of alumni interviewers and the number of applicants interviewed each cycle. The Alumni Representative Committee needs you to interview applicants to Columbia College. It takes only about 30 minutes to get trained, training is available on the ARC website and the interviews are at the interviewer's convenience or can be done remotely. Your participation will help show the best side of Columbia and its alumni. Judy has been interviewing for years and says it's fun to meet these kids and, as a side bonus, very helpful for those of us who have children who will be going through the process at any college. Judy is living that life as you read this, with daughter Anna having submitted college applications this past winter.

Mazel tov to **Laura Shaw Frank LAW'93**, who joined the American Jewish Committee in January as its associate director of contemporary Jewish life. She's a master juggler because while she jumped into her new position, she simultaneously put the finishing touches on her dissertation, which she will defend at UMD this spring.

**Robin Wald SEAS'90** embarked on a business venture last fall, Cosmic Wisdom Coaching, offering life coaching and astrology services to support clients' joy and success around life purpose, career, relationships, parenting, health and wellness. You don't live in Westchester County, N.Y.? No problem. Robin works with clients in person and virtually. Learn more about her work by listening to a podcast she was featured on in December: [bit.ly/2NP5uxc](http://bit.ly/2NP5uxc). In addition to her new business, Robin continues with her longtime passion of teaching yoga and Hebrew school. Visit [robinwald.com](http://robinwald.com).

Maybe you've noticed that I've been writing about my usual suspects. Well, that's because during Christmas week, I vacationed at Judy's house, where she, Robin, Laura, **Sharon Rogers** and I had a mini-reunion, in preparation for reunion. The four of them have been gathering on December 24 for many years, and this time I was able to join them. Too much fun was had by all, as per usual. Friendship is priceless.

I've known **Paul Greenberg BUS'97** since the second grade, and I love hearing from longtime (not old! we'll never be old!) friends. Some of this has been reported in previous columns, but it's good for us to refresh our memories, too. He writes, "I moved to NYC in '86 to go to the College and have never left. I'm married and have two kids. My wife is an adjunct professor of English at CUNY. My kids are 15 and 12. The older one is anatomically female but now identifies as non-binary (preferred pronouns: they/them). Since I can't call them my 'daughter' anymore and 'child' seems too young, I asked them how I should refer to them. In typical wise-ass teenager fashion, they replied, 'Just call me your spawn.' They're very happy. My 12-year-old is a daughter who is into ballet, art, writing and — of course — YouTube. Both of them go to Friends Seminary here in New York."

"I've been in media and digital media my whole career, with a focus on digital video. About two years ago, I started my own digital video company, Butter Works, which is a full-service firm offering deep AI-driven data analysis, which tells our clients what kind of content to make, where to distribute it, how long it should be, how well it will

perform, etc., full production, strategy and distribution. We're working with Netflix, Viacom, Discovery Channel, Verizon, P&G, A+E Networks, *The Guardian*, SoulCycle, Bustle and others. I really enjoy running my own company. My only full-time employee is a data scientist, and we're seeing great demand for the data work plus the creative production.

"One thing I wanted to share is that I've suffered from depression most of my life and only recently was able to come out of it. I am trying to destigmatize mental health issues, so I wrote about my struggles in a *Hollywood Reporter* piece: [bit.ly/2sQBpWA](http://bit.ly/2sQBpWA). I was also recently interviewed for a *Harvard Business Review* podcast on managing depression while running a company: [bit.ly/36bTa0p](http://bit.ly/36bTa0p)."

**Dean Sonderegger SEAS'90**, SEAS'91 is moving into real estate mogul territory, having recently bought a place in Battery Park City. For those keeping score at home, you'll remember that Dean lives in Virginia but works in Manhattan. This has eased his and Tracy's life substantially!

I learned from Facebook that New Hampshire resident **Rick St. Hilaire** was appointed in December by President Trump to serve on the Cultural Property Advisory Committee through April 2021. The committee is tasked with advising the White House on foreign government requests for U.S. import controls on archaeological and ethnological artifacts threatened by looting and theft. The committee was created by federal law in 1983 and submits its findings directly to the Department of State. In 2013, Rick founded the nonprofit Red Arch Cultural Heritage Law & Policy Research ([redarchresearch.org](http://redarchresearch.org)).

**Martin Benjamin** let me know in September that he has "a new book-like thing, [teachyoubackwards.com](http://teachyoubackwards.com). It started off as a standard academic research project, but you start to discover some interesting things when your 'lab' gets working with people and languages from Malawi to Mongolia. So, it evolved into a web-book that can include humor and multimedia and be accessible to non-specialists, but still has the chops to survive peer review.

"I'm happily divorced and a full-time single dad of a wonderful 9-year-old 50 percent of the time. She and I had the best vacation ever last summer, Interrail-ing through





scuthern and eastern Europe. I live in Lausanne, and try to do most of my work via Skype to reduce my carbon crimes, but am unable to avoid occasional meetings in places like Yakutsk for UNESCO-related business (July) and Bamako for the African Union (September)."

Wherever you live, dear reader, I'll see you in June!

## 1991

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

Have you ever wanted to be a CCT class correspondent? Now's your chance! After 11 amazing years of service, **Margie Kim** has stepped down from this role. If you would like to write this column, please reach out to us at cct@columbia.edu. In the interim, while we search for a new correspondent, the CCT staff will compile this column, so please drop us a line and share your news!

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
olivier.knox@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates. I heard from fellow Carman 7 alum **Dave Gabel**, who lives in Stamford, Conn., and is VP of digital content and programming for NBC's Olympics coverage. Dave writes that he's "in prep mode for Tokyo 2020, which will be my (ugh, I'm old) 13th Olympics, having started on the TV side pre-internet (again, ugh, I'm old)." Dave reports that he was briefly married five years ago. "Lotta travel and golf," he says [Wait, no tennis?]. "Would say I'm a proud fan of the 2017 World Series champion Astros, having grown up in Houston," he adds, "but that's a sensitive topic these days, hahaha."

**Jeff Lovell** wrote in with some sad news: "My wife of 13 years, Lesley, passed away due to cancer on September 11. She was the reason I moved to Australia, but I'm now a citizen and staying in this wonderful country."

"I was offered the role of services manager (basically the project delivery arm of our software development business) for Australia and New Zealand 18 months ago, but couldn't take it as I was essentially a full-time carer for Lesley (working

half-days remotely). It was recently reoffered, and I'm taking it and moving back to Melbourne from Perth," Jeff says. "Last year was terrible, with many close friends and family members passing away. I'm looking to this move and new role to start a new chapter."

Jeff closes on this note: "Huge changes across the spectrum of life — I've even lost 55 lbs. and am wearing my KDR and swimming sweatshirts from the '90s."

Jeff, my sincerest condolences.

## 1993

**Betsy Gomperz**  
betsy.gomperz@gmail.com

Check out this issue's "Lions" section to read about **Isaiah D. Delema**! And please take a moment to send in a note. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
lak6@columbia.edu

Happy spring, CC'94, and best wishes for a great start to your summers!

Please check out the "Just Married!" section in this issue for a photo of **Alison Gang's** October 2018 wedding, which brought together **Jordan Karp**, Satoshi Kitahama '91, **Alessandra Gunz** (née Morales) and **Roxanne Hill** (née Zikria) at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

Take a moment to send in a note — cool trips, job changes, fun hobbies, big life events or anything you want. Let's stay connected!

## 1995

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

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ccreunion@columbia.edu

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ccfund@columbia.edu

**Janet Lorin**  
janet.lorin@gmail.com

I hope this finds everyone thinking about attending our 25th reunion, which will be held Thursday, June 4-

Saturday, June 6. In helping to plan reunion, I have been in touch with classmates who have answered my call for an update.

**Roosevelt Montás** GSAS'04 stepped down as director of the Core Curriculum in December 2018. He returned to the faculty as senior lecturer in American studies, where he teaches courses in early American literature and American political thought as well as continues to teach in the Core. He's also writing a book about his experience of liberal

last fall. She visited the country for Oslo Innovation Week and gave a talk, "The Power of Mentorship." The goal was to remind people not to leave minority youth behind in discussions during the conference about business goals and plans. Rhonda spoke about the success of U.S. employers partnering with programs like Junior Achievement, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Speed Mentoring. She told the Norwegians to do the same with their businesses so that young, bright people

**Core Haiku**

Reading and thinking,  
the Core united us all.  
Agree disagree.

— Stephanie J. Geosits '94

education. Most importantly, he has a 2-year-old child, Arjuna Montás.

**Mohit Daswani** and his wife, **Sejal Daswani** SIPA'96, have been living on the West Coast for 15 years and now call San Francisco home. They have three kids — Naiya (13), Siddhartha (11) and Nysa (4) — and love the organized chaos that comes with this stage of life. "We've both also transitioned to careers in technology. I wrapped up at Square (where I ran finance and strategy for three years) and joined ThoughtSpot, a business intelligence software company, as its chief financial officer in January," Mohit writes. Sejal is the chief human resources officer at Sunrun, a residential solar energy company. They get a chance to see **Susan Philip** (my *Sangam Magazine* editor) fairly often.

**Adina Shoulson** chairs the history department at SAR H.S., a Jewish school in Riverdale, N.Y. "It's fun, challenging and meaningful," she writes. Her kids are in the 6th, 8th and 10th grades.

## 1996

**Ana S. Salper**  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Happy spring, classmates!

**Rhonda Moore** writes that she had the pleasure of combining her love of HR and her love of Norway

from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds do not get left behind or left out. Rhonda writes that it was a dream come true to share this perspective, and she is happy to report that the message was well received.

Congratulations to **Charlotte Bismuth** LAW'04, whose first book, *Pain Killer: Catching New York's Deadliest Doctor*, is coming out in June. The book is about a case Charlotte prosecuted on behalf of the NYC Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. Sounds like a great read! Charlotte lives in Manhattan with her husband, John, and children, Nina, Charlie, Lucie and Althea.

I want to call something to everyone's attention. All alumni, faculty and students are invited to participate in the Core Stories Memory Project (#corestories), which is an important piece of the Core Centennial celebration. The project will gather reflections, perspectives, insights and memories of our Core Curriculum experiences to be shared throughout the year on social media, online and in various publications. The memories will be preserved at the end of the Centennial year in a digital and/or print format.

It sounds like a great project, and I encourage you to visit core100.columbia.edu/core-stories to submit stories or to attach a photo. You can also send a short video that speaks to your experience in the Core to



the Alumni Committee on the Core Centennial: [core100@columbia.edu](mailto:core100@columbia.edu).

As always, I would love to hear from more of you — please send news! You can email me directly, use CCT's Class Notes webform ([college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note)) or send your notes directly to CCT ([cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); these notes will be forwarded to me). I leave you with this:

"Life is not measured by the amount of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

— Maya Angelou

## 1997

Kerensa Harrell  
[kvh1@columbia.edu](mailto:kvh1@columbia.edu)

Dear classmates, I hope you are doing well and that your winter was not too brutal. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

Kate Kelly recently published her third book, *The Education of Brett Kavanaugh: An Investigation*. Co-authored with Robin Pogrebin, her colleague at *The New York Times*, Kate's book completes the inquiry into the newest Supreme Court justice's educational years, the people who helped shape his experience and their impact on his contentious confirmation process in 2018. *The Washington Post* called it "a remarkable work of slowed-down journalism," and Gloria Steinem wrote, "... all of us subject to the Supreme Court must read it." Kate's back from book leave and covering business,

its impact on politics and influential people on Wall Street at the *Times*.

Rebekah Gee was proud to be recognized by *The New York Times* as one of "Five Who Spread Hope in 2019," for her work to eliminate hepatitis C in Louisiana and successfully negotiate the first modified subscription model for drug pricing in the United States ([nyti.ms/2uqhz55](https://nyti.ms/2uqhz55)). Her twin girls are in the first grade and they love living in New Orleans, where they enjoy good food, culture and festivities.

Sareeta Amrute has written a book, *Encoding Race, Encoding Class: Indian IT Workers in Berlin*, which received the 2019 International Convention of Asia Scholars Social Sciences Book Prize. It also received the 2017 Diana Forsythe Book Prize.

Benjamin Rand shares: "I am honored to have been named assistant commissioner of the NYC Department of Design and Construction, reporting directly to the commissioner. As the city's primary capital construction project manager, with more than \$20 billion in construction this year, we build many of the civic facilities such as firehouses, libraries, police precincts, courthouses and cultural centers, as well as NYC's infrastructure projects such as roadways, sewers and water mains in all five boroughs. I support the commissioner's vision and lead projects controls in analyzing cost control, scheduling, scope and risk management toward the on-time and on-budget constructability of our public buildings and infrastructure projects."

John Dean Alfano writes: "I've been busily working in the New

Mexico/Colorado/Texas motion picture industry since last summer. My production credits include *America's Got Talent* (NBC), *Bar Rescue* (Paramount), *American Idol* (ABC), *The Explosion Show* (The Science Channel), *Surviving Death* (Netflix), *The Circus: Inside the Greatest Political Show on Earth* (Showtime) and *Deputy* (Fox), and two live-streaming projects, the 2019 Connie Mack World Series (FloSports) and the Leonard Bernstein *Symphony No. 1: Jeremiah* retrospective (Vimeo). The videos for my company, Corsair Media Productions, are hosted by Vimeo, which made it particularly enjoyable to work on their production ([vimeo.com/user638665](https://vimeo.com/user638665)).

As for me, Kerensa Harrell, I am excited about our new year: 2020. It has a rather futuristic ring to it, but it's here already! As I wrap up this column, it is New Year's Day. Later this month I'll begin going to the training sessions for my new career as a certified yoga instructor. A new year and a new career. Last week we had a wonderful Christmas Day at my father's house here in Florida, with all his little grandchildren (including my daughter, Amara) running around his yard like a pack of wild monkeys. And we were blessed with perfect weather, with the high temperature in the upper 70s. I miss so many things about living in New York City, but the winter weather is not one of them!

Amara turned 3 last October. She is such a delightful little girl — very clever, monkeyish, funny, sweet, cute and loving! For her birthday party I did a princess theme, since that's what she's currently into, and I decided to stagger the birthday celebrations over the course of two days. I held the first party at our home, where we invited all her little friends and their parents for lunch and children's games. I held the second party at my grandfather Lawrence's home, where we invited the family for lunch and festivities. My grandfather, now my sole remaining grandparent, is 88 and lives in an assisted facility due to being wheelchair-bound from arthritis. The only way that he could attend his great-granddaughter's birthday party was if we brought the party to him, so that's exactly what I did. It was truly priceless to have my grandfather at my daughter's birthday celebration.

As I sign off now, and forge my new path in 2020, let me cue the

new song that Queen Elsa sings in *Frozen 2* (it's my daughter's favorite movie right now):

"Every day's a little harder as I feel my power grow ...

"Don't you know there's part of me that longs to go ...

"Into the unknown ... Into the unknown ..."

Blessings to all for the new year, and please do send me your updates. Feel free to keep in mind that your updates needn't be just about the usual topics like career/marriage/birth announcements — they could also be on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings, your flowery reminiscences ... Or simply tell us about some delightful local event that you attended or a family vacation that you went on. If nothing else, you can always write us merely to say hello! It would be splendid to hear from as many of our classmates as possible. I look forward to hearing from you all. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

## 1998

Sandie Angulo Chen  
[sandie.chen@gmail.com](mailto:sandie.chen@gmail.com)

Your classmates would love to hear from you, so please take a moment to send in a note! Wishing you a very happy spring!

## 1999

Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson  
[adieliz@gmail.com](mailto:adieliz@gmail.com)  
[jennajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:jennajohnson@gmail.com)

Hello classmates, and Happy New Year!

Will Heinrich sends news to bring us into 2020. For the past few years he's been writing about art for *The New York Times* (Art Hum vindication!). His second novel, *The Pearls*, came out in December. Order it, classmates! Call your local bookstore.

Will lives in Queens with his wife, an artist, and their daughter.

What else? Send us your news! (And let us know if you want to take this news-gatherer baton.)

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!

CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.







Kraig Odabashian '00 (left) and Andrew Ricci '00 hiked in Montana's Glacier National Park last July.

## 2000

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

Prisca Bae  
pb134@columbia.edu

In April 2019, Phoebe Farag Mikhail's book *Putting Joy into Practice: Seven Ways to Lift Your Spirit from the Early Church* was published (bit.ly/2U5THP9). A must-read for anyone seeking more happiness in 2020!

Kraig Odabashian and Andrew Ricci reconnected last July to spend a week hiking in Montana's Glacier National Park. It was 20 years after they first climbed Algonquin Peak at 5,114 ft. in the Adirondacks (the second highest peak in New York!) the summer after our junior year, forging a lifelong passion for mountaineering.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Columbia Reunion 2020, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6! Get more info and sign up at college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion!

## 2001

Jonathan Gordin  
jrg53@columbia.edu

Greetings for spring, Class of 2001! Please take a moment to send in a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories and/or anything else you'd like to share. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani  
soniahird@gmail.com

Happy New Year! Lindsay Jurist-Rosner and her husband, Jason E. Fox, are excited to announce the birth of Annabel "Annie" Jean Fox, born at 10:24 p.m. on November 14. Annie weighed in at 5 lbs., 14 oz., and measured 19 inches.

Colleen Hsia is leading a 30-person cross practice team at FTI Consulting, where she is a senior managing director and head of Americas financial services in the strategic communications division. She lives with her husband, Mike, and their daughters, Evie (5) and Zoe (2), in Short Hills, N.J.

Please send updates to soniahird@gmail.com!

## 2003

Michael Novielli  
mjn29@columbia.edu

Happy New Year! Hope that 2020 is off to a good start for you and yours. For those who celebrate the lunar new year, happy Year of the Rat! Mickey and Minnie have been making their appearances in malls throughout Asia. Jessica Huang Pouleur BC'03 has a hand in this as head of strategy and business development, Asia Pacific, for Disney, based in Singapore.

Hector Rivera is a physician at Emergency Medicine Professionals and lives in Orlando, not far from the noteworthy mice.

Karolina Dryjanska spent the New Year hiking in the Himalayas, off the grid from technology.

Leah Bailey wanted us to know that she is healthy and well. She writes, "I had a successful kidney transplant from a living donor in April 2019, and the difference it has made to my life (primarily, not being on dialysis anymore) is astounding. I'm currently putting the kidney (fondly named George, as the transplant was on Saint George's Day) to work by teaching reading and writing and language arts at a public school in rural Milton-Freewater, Ore. (population: 7,027), and parenting three kids under 8!"

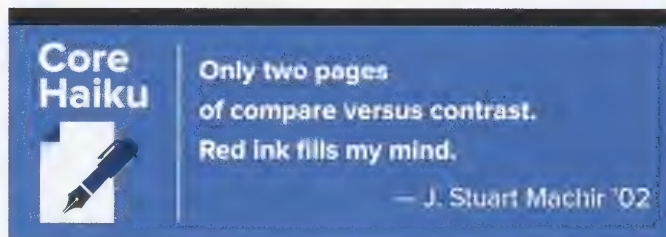
Julie Bennett Ashton GSAS'11 wishes the Class of 2003 happiness in 2020! Currently developing several project proposals, she plans to approach Gucci and the city of San Francisco to offer an emblematic series for a collaboration and a billboard, respectively. To share contacts or encouragement, messages are welcome: ashtonportfolio@protonmail.com.

Kambiz Eli Akhavan writes, "I recently joined the international law

*Their Holy Dog* (written with massive input from his wife, Lauren Mancia '05); and now his series for younger kids, *The Unicorn Rescue Society*, which is a comedy-adventure series for boys and girls and everyone else. He thinks a lot about campus and is thinking of auditing some classes in the spring or fall semesters. He says, "See you there?"

Rachel Neugarten is in her first year of a Ph.D. program at Cornell, and very much enjoying being a student again. She also loves living in Ithaca, with its access to nature trails and local organic produce; it makes her hippie heart happy. She has a big house and a new dog, and welcomes you to visit anytime.

Daniel de Roulet Jr. and Julia Hertz de Roulet ("We met freshman year on John Jay 6!") have moved from Long Island to San Francisco. Julia is pursuing a master's in counseling psychology for licensure as a marriage and family therapist. Danny is CEO of a biotech company, Mitokinin, which



firm of Norton Rose Fulbright U.S. as senior counsel. I specialize in estate planning and asset protection for both U.S. and international families."

Please do take the time to write with updates, as we'd love to hear what's new in your life. If you do not have any life updates to share, I also welcome any book, restaurant, movie, or bar recommendations for the rest of us.

## 2004

Jaydip Mahida  
jmahida@gmail.com

Adam Gidwitz has been publishing books for young people for 10 years. He has nine books, including *A Tale Dark and Grimm* and its companions; the 2016 Newbery Honor book *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and*

he started with Julia's brother. Their three kids love SF and they do, too!

Tristan Perich writes, "I have continued composing music since my time as an undergrad with Columbia New Music. Last year I presented my largest piece for 50 violins and 50 electronic speakers at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, which then traveled to the Netherlands to accompany a new dance by Lucinda Childs. In my music I often work with one-bit sound, thinking about the relationship between computation and the physical world around us, which I also explore as a visual artist, building drawing machines and the like. I am lucky to share this career with my wife, Lesley Flanigan (also a musician), and my kids, Bronwyn and Ramsey."

That's all for this issue — please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as



possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or the CCT Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 2005

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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Development Contact  
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*Columbia College Today*  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

Wishing the Class of 2005 a very happy spring! Don't forget that our 15th reunion will be here soon, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. Come back to campus and reconnect with old friends!

Very happy news from **John Zaro**: "With our hearts full, my wife, Natalie Leggio BC'04, and I welcomed a daughter to the world on December 31. Sophia Ivy is basking in adoration from her brothers, Adrian and Gabriel, at our home in Battery Park City."

## 2006

**Andrew Stinger**  
[andrew.stinger@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.stinger@gmail.com)

CCT thanks **Michelle Oh Sing** for her 15 years of excellent service as class correspondent, and is happy to welcome **Andrew Stinger** to the role. Below is Andrew's introduction, followed by Michelle's final column.

From Andrew: "Hello! You might remember me from Dance Marathon, CU Relief, SigEp, the occasional CU Road Runners race or as the guy who always had an extra pen in your recitation group. I live in San Francisco, where I run product marketing for a startup, Coda, and teach fitness classes. In other words, I'm a professional hype man, so it's a privilege to take up the Class Notes mantle from Michelle, and to celebrate the goings-on of

our amazing class! Please join me in thanking Michelle for 15 (!) years of sharing our class updates, and feel free to share your news with me moving forward."

From Michelle: "Hi Class of 2006. I hope you are all doing well. Please find a couple of updates from classmates below:

**Andrew Liebowitz** writes, "I was thrilled to be the best man at **Eric LeSueur's** wedding in November. I am so grateful that **Matt Disney SEAS'06** and his family fought through two hours of New York City-area traffic — after flying in from the West Coast on a separate trip — to pay me and my family a visit in Northern New Jersey in November. Truly a wonderful holiday season."

**Sam Schon** harvested a nearly 500-lb. black bear from his family's Pennsylvania farm in 2018 while hunting with his father. This year the bruin entered the state record book with an official score of 19–10. When not on a bear hunt (or hunting for oil and gas), Sam can be found in Houston with his family.

**Jeremy Kotin** was thrilled to see his directorial debut short film, *La Salvadora*, play at the Lincoln Center as part of the 2019 Columbia University Film Festival alongside writer/producer Tom Locke SOA'19 and co-producer Daniel Raiffe SOA'18, winning the IFP Audience Award. The film recently sold to ShortsTV and began broadcasting nationwide in early 2020."

## 2007

**David D. Chait**  
[david.donner.chait@gmail.com](mailto:david.donner.chait@gmail.com)

Read on to learn about what some of our classmates are up to!

**Andrew Russeth** writes, "I got married to the love of my life, Laretta Charlton (Columbia Publishing Course '05), at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, Calif., in September. It was an honor to have among the groomsmen **David Chait**, **Marc Tracy** and **Avi Zenilman**. Other Columbians making the trip were **Christina Giaccone BC'07**, **Gillian DiPietro BC'07**, **Subash Iyer**, **Helam Gebremariam**, **David Berlin**, **Joseph Anzalone**, **Susie Schwartz '02**, **Stacy Wu '02**

and **Doug Gould LAW'08**. We honeymooned in Crete, and highly recommend that beautiful island for anyone seeking a delicious vacation."

**Jami Jackson** welcomed a child on September 5. She writes, "I had a healthy boy named Isaac Aeneas Mulgrave. I now am a mother of two young children!"

After nearly five years of private practice in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., areas, **Negar Kordestani** is now an assistant U.S. attorney in the criminal division of the Southern District of West Virginia. If you're ever in the Charleston, W.Va., area, please let her know.

**Tricia Ebner** writes, "I got married on November 16 in Long Island City to Frank Dubinsky. It was a great time, full of Columbia grads, including both my parents and sisters (Anne-Marie '01, Mary '03 and Kathryn '05), as well as **Jordy Lievers-Eaton**, **Natalia Premovic**, **Carly Sullivan**, **Hilary Sullivan**, **Liz Ichniowski**, **Christina Fang**, **Adriana Sein**, **Andrew Ward**, **Adrian Demko**, **Conall Arora '06** and **Erin Debold BC'07**."

**Tarik Bolat** once again regales us with a humorous update: "My wife, Max, son, Asher, and I dusted off the Art Hum syllabus for Halloween and dressed up as Jan van Eyck's *Arnolfini Portrait*. It was a Flemish Fright! (Go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct) to see the photo!)"

Tarik also shares some fun fake news from classmates Dave, Peter and Paul!

Brimming with brio after a successful career as an investor, **Dave Schor** plans to make a hobby a career: Wine label copy writing. "Even though I don't have a background as a sommelier or vintner, I would always find myself writing sample copy for wine bottles in between my financial modeling work at Goldman [Sachs]," Dave says. "That continued well into my 30s. I'd be sitting at a Bloomberg terminal, monitoring the pound-yen exchange rate, and then 'bam!', all of a sudden on the side of my notebook I'd find a few sentences about a northern Rhone Hermitage Roussanne with notes of persimmon, buckwheat and burnt leather. I was like, 'Forget the price of frozen orange juice futures, I need to be doing this!'"

Dave offered his services to several Northern California wine producers, which began using his work.

He now writes for seven vineyards in the area. "It's really about creating a dreamscape, a land of possibilities and imagination for the consumer. It really helps them enjoy the wine to its fullest extent," Dave says.

Inspired by his work, Dave has also begun writing a short memoir of his professional left turn, titled *Gooseberry, Is That You?*

**Peter Shalek** is again shaking up the world of modernist German melodrama with his critically acclaimed one-man show, *Lampy Lunaire*, an anxiety-packed remake of Arnold Schoenberg's seminal early 20th-century work *Pierrot Lunaire*. In this pathbreaking performance, Peter seizes the stage in full costume as a wistful and existentially fraught version of a desk lamp and wills into creation an atonal affair for the ages that interrogates Thing Theory, capital in the age of the bit, and ultimately society at large. One gobsmacked fan in Tulsa, Okla., related: "Mr. Shalek's *Sprechstimme* caterwaul is primal — his performance is a monument to the lived experience and sizzles like a t-bone on the grill."

Good luck, Peter!

In addition to his rising career as a journalist, **Paul Sonne** has become known throughout the continent for his superlative solo sackbut performances. Dubbed 'Sackbutist of the Year' two years in a row by France's leading Renaissance music guild, sold-out crowds from Strasbourg to Timisoara have been thrilling to Paul's commanding crescendos and honeyed pianissimos. This fall, he'll be on the road as the opening act for an Alsatian master known as the Eric Clapton of the cornet.

What an opportunity, Paul! We hope your tour makes it stateside next year!

## 2008

*Columbia College Today*  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

Happy spring, Class of 2008! Thanks to everyone for sending in your exciting news!

**Lindsey Lazopoulos Friedman** joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida as a criminal prosecutor. In 2019, Lindsey tried and won four jury trials in Miami, Fort Lauderdale





and Key West. At the time of writing in early January, she was planning to moderate a panel on trends in art crime for the Federal Bar Association's 2020 Art Law and Litigation Conference, held at the National Arts Club in Manhattan on February 6.

**Jonathan Basile's** first book, *Tar for Mortar*, "The Library of Babel" and *the Dream of Totality* was translated into Portuguese with the title *Massa por Argamassa: A "Biblioteca de Babel" e o Sonho da Totalidade*.

From **Andrew Avorn**: "I got married in June in Brooklyn. My wife, Annie, and I are excited to go on our (somewhat delayed!) honeymoon to New Zealand this spring. I recently started a law firm where I represent startups and entrepreneurs as outside general counsel."

## 2009

**Chantee Dempsey**  
chantee.dempsey@gmail.com

Happy New Year, CC'09! **Sasha de Vogel's** first novel, *A Wicked Magic*, is a young adult contemporary fantasy about teenage witches on California's northern coast; it is scheduled to come out on July 28 and will be published under the pseudonym Sasha Laurens. Sasha also just finished several months of fieldwork in Moscow for her dissertation for her Ph.D. in political science.

**Carlos Cortés** will open an expansion of his family's chocolate restaurant, Chocobar Cortés, in the South Bronx in spring/early summer 2020. This news was featured in a press release by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Check out Carlos's Instagram @chocobarcortes.



Lauren Damooei '10 and Alidad Damooei '09 welcomed daughter Scarlett Marie on September 12.

**Gilad Edelman** started a job in October covering tech and politics for *WIRED* magazine.

**Rory Donnelly** married Christina Collins on June 14. Rory is a senior associate in corporate intelligence at PricewaterhouseCoopers UK.

After two years clerking for Chief Judge Merrick Garland on the D.C. Circuit and Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar on the California Supreme Court, last fall **Amari Hammonds** started as the 2019–21 Earl Warren Fellow in the California Solicitor General's Office. The California SG recently argued the DACA case before the U.S. Supreme Court, and Amari looks forward to even more exciting appellate litigation on behalf of the State of California. She loves her community in Oakland and is unashamed to say she can no longer tolerate sub-40s temperatures.

In October, **Stephanie Chou** performed several songs at the memorial conference for Patrick Ximenes Gallagher, a beloved math professor and director of undergraduate studies who taught at Columbia 1972–2017. Patrick was Stephanie's advisor and professor for several classes. In attendance at the conference at Earl Hall were numerous Columbia math department professors, colleagues from math departments across the country, and family and friends.

**Dr. Michael J. Drabkin** recently completed his medical training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and is now a practicing interventional radiologist on Long Island. In the past year, he also had the honor of presenting his research in exciting locales including São Paulo, Barcelona, Austin and even Manhattan.

**Madison Mobley** left the corporate world and founded both a nonprofit (Kickstart Your Humanitarianism) and a footwear line (Instagram: @gunnarfoshay). At the time of writing she was preparing to be featured in New York Fashion Week in February, returning to New York for the first time in years.

**Rachelle Meyer** became a veterinarian last summer!

**Amanda Karl** and her husband, Mike McBrearty SEAS'04, welcomed a son last summer. They live in Northern California, where Amanda represents employees and consumers in complex litigation.

**Josh Mathew** graduated from Harvard Law last May. He works

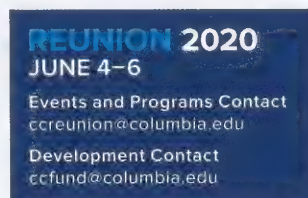
for Kirkland & Ellis in Manhattan and lives in Astoria.

**Stephanie Lindquist** is pursuing an M.F.A. at the University of Minnesota. Since moving to Minneapolis from New York last summer, she feels grateful to family, old friends and new friends who have welcomed her there.

This spring, **Jenny Lam** is curating *SLAYSLAN*, an exhibition celebrating and featuring Asian-American artists in Chicago. Other recent life updates include being selected to exhibit her artwork at the Chicago Cultural Center and at the Chicago Public Library; getting published in the graphic novel anthology *New Frontiers*; speaking at Facebook Chicago and at stARTup Art Fair about representation and about "What Matters," respectively; guest judging at Line Dot Editions; being featured in an episode of the political documentary series *Transition to Power*; and performing at 20x2 Chicago. She and her parents rang in 2020 in Patagonia, a destination that was on her bucket list.

**Alidad Damooei** and Lauren Damooei '10 welcomed daughter Scarlett Marie on September 12.

## 2010



**Julia Feldberg Klein**  
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Happy spring, Class of 2010! Our 10th reunion will be here soon, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6!

**Charlotte Freinberg** married Iestyn Barker in September at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. The couple live in London and work in television production. In attendance were many Columbia and Barnard alumni including **Julia Klein**, **Emily Johnson**, **Zachary Waisman**, **Elinor Noble BC'10**, **Charlotte Furet BC'10**, **Jeffrey Iloulian**, **Jeffrey Schwartz**, **Matthew Harold**, **Nicole Beach**, **Elisabeth Freinberg '02**, **Mitchell Freinberg '73**, **David Freinberg '78**, **James Minter '73**, **Caroline Freinberg**

'19, **Marilyn Harris BC'73** and **Sarah Charles BC'75**.

**Ahiza García** and **Vaughn Hodges** were married in October at the Palacio de Galiana in Toledo, Spain, surrounded by family and friends. Guests included **Carl Constant '11**, **Macklin Loughrey**, **Jared Morine**, **Andrew Shalbrack**, **William Lipovsky**, **Derek Jancisin**, **David Brekke**, **Millicent Olawale**, **Hannah Biddle** and **Isidore Smart**.

**Dean Forthun** wrote in with exciting news: "I'm certainly roaring my way through 2020. I married my beautiful fiancée, **Ellie Eubank**, on January 18 in front of God, family and friends at Mission San Luis Rey. My best friend and college roommate, **Derek Squires**, was in my wedding party and I couldn't have been happier. The day after the wedding, Ellie and I were off on a two-week adventure to Thailand and Singapore for the honeymoon. When we get back we'll move into our first apartment together in downtown Long Beach. Life is so rich!"

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem** and **Sean Udell**  
nurielm@gmail.com  
sean.udell@gmail.com

Spring. The season of birth. The stirring of love. The ignition of your innate immune system. We hope that the season of new beginnings is bringing welcome change in your life. If it is — or if it isn't — we want to hear about that change (or lack thereof) here in the 2011 Class Notes column! Please give **Nuriel** and **Sean** a shout. We can't wait to hear from you.

To emphasize how some things really don't change, **Dhruve Vasishtha** is planning **Rajib Mitra SEAS'11's** bachelor party for his impending nuptials to **Debashree Sengupta**. **Rajib** and **Debashree** are a true (Columbia)-blue 2011 love story! The groom has asked for activities with a high likelihood of generating quality Instagram content. Look for #RajibGetsTheD, coming to your social feed this spring.

**Annie Tan**, in addition to being in her eighth year teaching elementary special education in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, has spent the past three



# Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Congratulations!



BRIAN BEAN



SYLVIE ROSKOFF



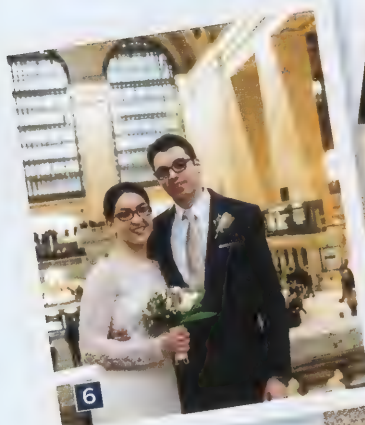
3



JERALD ZHANG



LAUREN O'BRIEN (SILVERFOX STUDIOS)



KNOT BY THE SEA WEDDINGS



PATRICIA LYONS



8





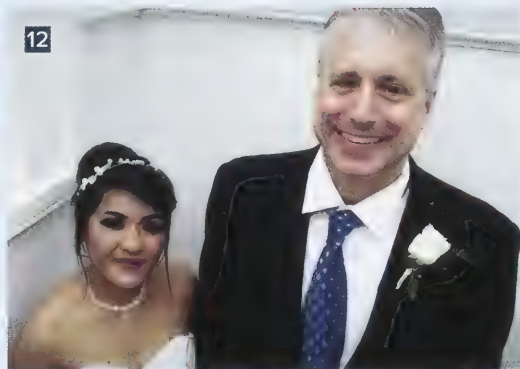
MONIKA ZALDO



POLINA BULMAN



HAILEY & JOEL CRABTREE



TIGRAN MARKARYAN, CALYPSO DIGITAL WEDDINGS



COURTNEY STOCKTON

**1.** On November 10, Joshua Philip Ross '97 married Jihyun Jo at SongEun ArtSpace in Seoul, Korea.

**2.** Andrew Russeth '07 married Lauretta Charlton at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, Calif., in September. Back row, left to right: Christina Giaccone BC'07, Avi Zenilman '07, Marc Tracy '07, David Berlin '07, Subash Iyer '07, Helam Gebremariam '07 and Joseph Anzalone '07; and second row, left to right: Gillian DiPietro BC'07, Susie Schwartz '02, Stacy Wu '02, the bride, the groom and David Chait '07.

**3.** On November 16, Tricia Ebner '07 married Frank Dubinsky at Sound River Studios in Long Island City, N.Y. Left to right: Jordy Lievers-Eaton '07, Anne-Marie Ebner '01, Elizabeth Ichniowski '07, Christina Fang '07, Andrew Ward '07, Carly Sullivan '07, Adriana Sein '07, Adrian Demko '07, the bride, Irene Plagianos '03, Mary Berat '03, Conall Arora '06, Hilary Sullivan '07, Erin Debold BC'07, Natalia Premovic '07, William Ebner '73, Kathryn Van Nuys '05, Virginia Ebner NRS'79, Mike Cappeto, Carol Brofman and Ken Torrey.

**4.** Max Banaszak '12 and Gina Ng (front center) celebrated their marriage at the Fullerton Hotel Singapore on July 7. Among the bridesmaids and groomsmen surrounding them are Kemal Arsan SIPA'11, Jason Alford '12 and Mike Hu '12.

**5.** Dean Forthun '10 married Ellie Eubank on January 18 at Mission San Luis Rey in California.

**6.** On January 21, 2019, Irene Izaguirre-Lopez Post '12 and Robert Post SEAS'12 were married in New York City.

**7.** Alexander Harstrick '12 married Jo Beth Harstrick on May 19, 2018, at the Dover Hall Estate in Goochland, Va.

**8.** Charlotte Freinberg '10 married Iestyn Barker in September at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. Alumni in attendance included Elisabeth Freinberg '02 (far left) and Charlotte Furet BC'10 (second from right).

**9.** Ahiza García '10 and Vaughn Hodges '10 were married on October 5 at the Palacio de Galiana in Toledo, Spain, surrounded by family and friends. Clockwise from left: Carl Constant '11, Macklin Loughrey '10, Jared Morine '10, Andrew Shalbrack '10, William Lipovsky '10, Derek Jancisin '10, David Brekke '10, Millicent Olawale '10, the groom, the bride, Hannah Biddle '10 and Isidore Smart '10.

**10.** Nina Lukina '12 and Russell Gallaro LAW'12 were married at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on September 9. Left to right: Camille Salcedo-Watson '12, Ben Lindbergh, Michele Cleary '12, John Gallaro, Kathleen Schneider, the groom, the bride, Rebecca Gallaro, Ned Klein, Ivy Lei and Eric Apar.

**11.** On September 7, Erin M. Connell '13 married Christian Adams in Somesville, Maine. Top row, left to right: Becca Bor BC'06, Robin Barnes PS'78, Jocelyn Howard '13, the groom, Julia Tejada '13, the bride, father of the bride John Connell '76 and Annie Bryan '18; and bottom row, left to right: Will Connell '19, Brigid Connell '16 and mother of the groom Mary Barnes SOA'85.



THOR SWIFT

**12.** Thomas Coffin Willcox '84 married Glenda Lombrino on May 5 at The Divine Science Church in Washington, D.C.

**13.** Wendan Li '12 and Yufei Liu SEAS'12, who met during NSOP, were married at the Hans Fahden Vineyards in Calistoga, Calif., on October 12, their 11-year anniversary. Left to right: Jim Huang SEAS'12, Belle Yan '12, Ying Wang '12, Nathan Hwang SEAS'12, the bride, the groom, Steven Wong SEAS'12, Jin Chen '12, Sid Nair '12, Cecilia Schudel '13 and Hans Hyttinen SEAS'12.

**14.** Alison Gang '94 married Mark Johnson at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park on October 13, 2018. Left to right: Jordan Karp '94, Satoshi Kitahama '91, the bride, Alessandra Gunz (née Morales) '94 and Roxanne Hill (née Zikria) '94.



years as a storyteller all throughout NYC, as well as kept up her activism work around public education and Asian-American rights. One of Annie's stories was featured on the Moth Radio Hour. "Remembering Vincent" is about her relation to Vincent Chin, a man killed in a hate crime and whose murder led to a pan-Asian American movement in the 1980s. She also keynoted the "Teaching Social Activism" conference last spring at the Museum of the City of New York. Annie is excited that her story and work will be featured in the PBS documentary series *Asian Americans*, out this spring — hope you tune in ([pbs.org/show/asian-americans/](https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/))!

Some 2011ers have really taken this spring to have sprung something totally new! **Anjelica Hernandez** took her passion for dogs and the environment to another level by launching EarthyPup, an eco-friendly pet subscription company. EarthyPup aims to provide thoughtful products and creative solutions for a greener, simpler life within the dog community. This social venture reminds us that there's no small act when it comes to helping make the world more sustainable.

**Allie Fisher** is now partner, creative director at a San Francisco-based design and strategy firm, Godfrey Dadich Partners. She is part of the team that produced season two of *Abstract: The Art of Design* on Netflix, which launched last fall

and might finally help her family understand what the heck a job in "design" really is. More recently, Allie worked on a project close to home — or rather, campus, leading the team working on the brand redesign of campus coffee shop Joe Coffee. The new visual identity speaks to both the craft and community vibes of this NYC mainstay. The new look will roll out across campus and the city this year.

Others have experienced a multitude of change over several seasons. **Zack Crimmins** graduated from William & Mary Law School, the oldest law school in the country, in May 2019 and passed the Virginia bar exam. He is a law clerk for the Hanover County Circuit Court in Virginia's 15th Judicial District, near Richmond. He recently saw his old Lions basketball team, and head coach Jim Engles, take on the defending champs in Charlottesville. The Lions unfortunately did not prevail, but acquitted themselves admirably.

**Stephanie Wilhelm** was sworn into the Delaware Army National Guard JAG Corps and directly commissioned as a first lieutenant in October. She will attend (or is currently attending, depending on when this is published) the Direct Commission Course at Fort Benning, Ga., and Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville this spring and summer. She says she looks forward to



Several alumni are involved in the *Lalabala Project*, an original children's musical theater piece traveling to Nepal this spring: Fiona Rae Brunner BC'14, Molly Rose Heller GS/JTS'15, Jake Lasser '12, Schuyler Van Amson '17 and Maria Fernanda Diez '15.

serving the United States of America and the State of Delaware!

**Princess Francois** has experienced a whole year of blessings! She got engaged in late April 2019 in Egypt on the Great Pyramid! She also received the Milken Educator Award in November! Princess was the only educator in New York State to receive the award last year, and one of just 40 educators across the country. (It's the Academy Awards of teaching ... seriously!) Princess is assistant principal of math and science at MESA Charter H.S. in Brooklyn. This is her fourth year there and her ninth year in education.

We hope that the remainder of your spring continues to blossom! We've exhausted our flowery language for now, but we're already looking forward to serving the sizzling updates of the summer in a few months.

outstanding results in their careers. Membership is by invitation only and is based on peer nominations and third-party research.

Ashley joined the legal department of Goldman Sachs in January. Before that, she was a litigation associate at Sullivan & Cromwell specializing in white-collar criminal defense, regulatory enforcement and internal investigations. She is also entering her third year as founder of Ivy Grad Services, her graduate school admissions consulting business.

In 2019, Ashley hired two consultants, Marc Holloway '11, BUS'17, LAW'17 and Quinn Shelton '13. Ashley says she looks forward to hiring more Columbia alums and expanding her business in 2020!

Wishing everyone a happy new year. Please take a moment to send a note!

## 2012

**Sarah Chai**  
[sarahbchai@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbchai@gmail.com)

Happy New Year, everyone! Starting off the year with happy news from **Max Banaszak** and **Ashley C. Lhérisson**.

Congratulations are in order for **Max Banaszak** and Gina Ng, who were married at the Fullerton Hotel Singapore on July 7. Check out the "Just Married!" section for a photo of the happy couple surrounded by bridesmaids and groomsmen, including the groom's freshman year John Jay 12 floormates!

**Ashley C. Lhérisson** LAW'17 was selected by The National Black Lawyers for its list of "Top 40 Under 40" lawyers in New York! The National Black Lawyers is a professional and educational organization comprising African-American attorneys who have demonstrated excellence and achieved

## 2013

**Tala Akhavan**  
[talaakhavan@gmail.com](mailto:talaakhavan@gmail.com)

No news this time, CC'13! Do you have fun plans for the summer? Share them here! Any cool job news? You can share that, too! Big life changes? Let's hear it! This is your place to share, and your classmates want to hear from you. Please send a note to [talaakhavan@gmail.com](mailto:talaakhavan@gmail.com).

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
[rsf2121@columbia.edu](mailto:rsf2121@columbia.edu)

Happy spring, Class of 2014!

**Eric Ingram** is in his final semester for his master's program in education at UC Berkeley and plans to teach high school English in Los Angeles next year.



Micah Smith '14 and Alex Gaspard '14 got engaged last summer in Boston. They celebrated their engagement with their vintage Class of 2014 champagne flutes from Senior Night.





**Jen Lee** relocated to San Francisco after completing an M.B.A. at Harvard. She enjoys startup life, the outdoors and the mild weather in the Bay Area. Let her know if you're in the area!

In March 2019, **Chris Zombik** quit his full-time job in Shanghai to focus on growing his education consulting company. Now location-independent, he is traveling around East Asia and the United States meeting people and working on both business and creative projects.

**Kate Eberstadt** is based in Brooklyn and is a recording artist, musical theater composer, performer and humanitarian, often blending these roles. Described by *Soundigest* as "avant garde meets pop," as the alt-pop duo Delune she and her sister **Izzi Eberstadt BC'16** are releasing one single a month in 2020, dropping both their debut baroque-pop concept album *Pierrot* and an electronic beat-driven EP inspired by their time in Central Asia last year. The pair recently returned from Kazakhstan, where they co-composed an original musical, based on the East German dystopian fairytale *The Rain Maiden*, for the Nemetski National Theater. The duo are also composing for *Lalabala Project*, an original children's musical theater piece traveling to Nepal this spring, created by Fiona Rae Brunner BC'14, directed by Molly Rose Heller GS/JTS'15 and featuring Jake Lasser '12,

Schuyler Van Amson '17 and Maria Fernanda Diez '15.

Kate is writing an autobiographical experimental musical, *Notes from the Basement*, documenting the year she spent living in her parents' basement writing a mixtape after working in an emergency refugee camp in Berlin. This show, also directed by Molly Rose Heller GS/JTS'15, has had a few workshops/readings in NYC, including at Corkscrew Theater Festival, spearheaded by Alex Hare '13 and **Alexander Donnelly**. The developmental cast featured longtime Notes and Keys collaborators — Izzi, Christopher Ramirez '13 and Donju Min '13, who also worked on the project in Germany.

After leading a recording program on Rikers Island with incarcerated youth, Kate continues to be a teaching artist in the city, most recently mentoring eighth graders at Girls Prep to create an album about their middle-school experiences.

To follow Kate's musical theater and humanitarian work, check out her Instagram @updatesfromkate. Check out Delune's work on Spotify, Apple Music or other streaming platforms! Follow @deluneofficial for more updates.

**Micah Smith** and **Alex Gaspard** got engaged last summer in Boston and are planning their wedding for this fall! They celebrated their engagement with their vintage Class of 2014 champagne flutes from Senior Night.

**Rebecca Fattell** will return to Columbia this fall to begin an M.B.A. at the Business School. She's thrilled to be returning to Morningside Heights!

## 2015

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Kareem Carryl**  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! I hope the first few months of the decade have been treating you well! Let's jump right into the news that classmates shared.

**Adrian Alexander Alea** shared, "Since associate directing the world premiere of *Hercules* in collaboration with Disney Theatrical Productions and The Public Theater's Public Works, I am excited to share that I will start at New York City Center's *Encores!* in a newly created position as its creative associate."

Congratulations!

**Virgilio Urbina Lazardi** is in the third year of his doctoral candidacy at NYU's Department of Sociology. His research focuses on industrial relations, bargaining power and labor sociology, with a focus on workplace representation in Germany and Austria. He shared that he is "still living in 'da greatest city on Earth,' baybee" and offers his sincere apologies to any and all offended for his turning coat (blue for violet).

**Adrian Silver** recently had a Community Impact reunion with **Hahn Chang**, **Megan Thompson BC'15** and **Brian McGrattan SEAS'15**.

**Fatimatou Diallo** and **Doreen Mohammed '19** traveled together in Paris! They shared a photo from the Louvre Museum.

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. And make plans to come back to campus for Reunion Weekend 2020, Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6!



Fatimatou Diallo '15 (left) and Doreen Mohammed '19 went to the Louvre Museum together.

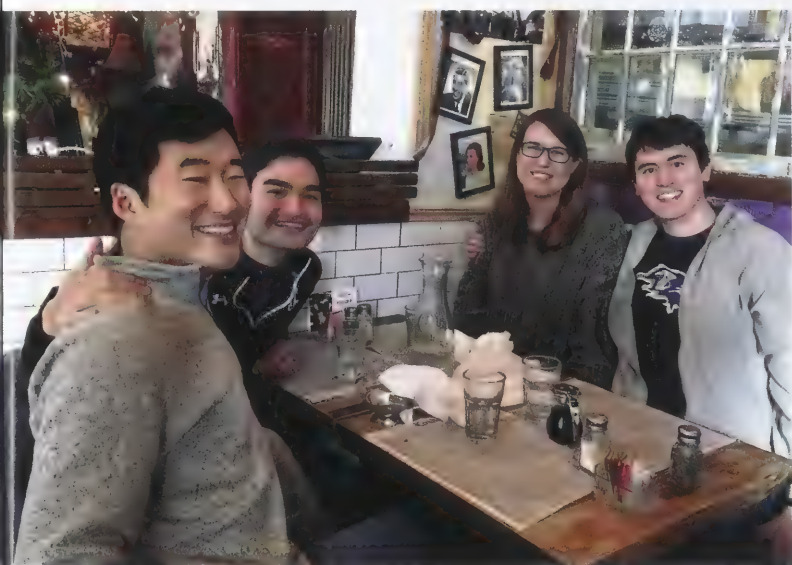
## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016, happy 2020 to you! I continually am impressed by the updates and nominations you send in. Please continue to write with updates or nominate friends to brag about.

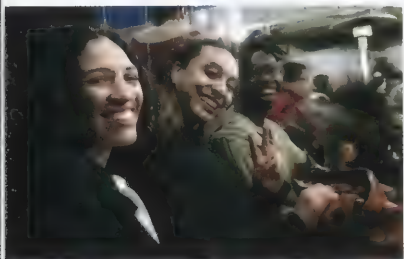
From my end, I spent the last part of 2019 back at Columbia in the Journalism School, focusing on data journalism. Did you know Brad's is now a Joe's? (Not sure you needed to know, but now you know!) On to more interesting classmates and their 2019 adventures ... drum roll ...

From **Justine Horton**: "This past winter, I had the incredible opportunity to summit Mount Kilimanjaro. At 19,341 ft., it is the tallest mountain on the continent of Africa, and the tallest free-standing volcano in the world. My team reached the summit just as the sun rose over the crater's rim, making the freshly fallen snow on the peak's glaciers glow pink. It was a phenomenal experience. The trip came as a culmination of now three years working in the outdoor industry, following my five-month through-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail in 2017. Since then, I have been an instructor with outdoor education organizations, and a guide with Discover Outdoors, a New York City-based guiding company. Though



Several former Columbia Community Impact members had a mini-reunion. Left to right: Hahn Chang '15, Adrian Silver '15, Megan Thompson BC'15 and Brian McGrattan SEAS'15.





India Wilson '16 (left) and Reva Santo '16 met up for a mini-CC'16 reunion.

my work mainly keeps me away from the city and buried deep in the forests and mountains of the Northeast, I can occasionally be found in Brooklyn. Let me know if you want to get out for a hike!"

From **Sanjana Salwi**: "I'm in my third year of medical school in Nashville — bachelorette party central. In addition to boasting the highest proportion of party tractors per capita, Tennessee is also one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic in the context of Medicaid non-expansion. I've been working on several bills and initiatives to help get patients with opioid use disorder the care that they need. It's been super exciting to talk to Tennessee state legislators and physicians in the Tennessee Medical Association on a (mostly) bipartisan issue. I've also been putting those CC readings to work on a medical ethics project to study how doctors make decisions on end-of-life care when the outlook is hard to predict. This project has not lessened the regret my parents feel for paying tuition for me to read books."

From **Reva Santo**: "Hey, Class of 2016! It's been a while since I've seen most of you and I hope you're all thriving. What's been going on with me? I left New York pretty quickly after graduation to spend time in Cuba making a short film. When I came back I linked up with the Visible Poetry Project (run by the awesome **Michelle Cheripka**) to direct a visual poem interpreting the powerful words of Sojourner Ahebee. The short was featured at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery! Whirlwind! Shuffled off to make another short in Japan after that, just for fun."

"I came back to New York briefly in 2018 but then got the opportunity to chase after one of my favorite directors, Dee Rees, in Puerto Rico on the set of her upcoming film *The Last Thing He Wanted* (based on the Joan Didion novel, for all my fellow nerds). Came home to Los Angeles to breathe for a sec and then took off to Europe to do research for a story concept."

"I'm back in L.A. now, and most of my energy goes into my baby, Honey & Smoke, a global artist community and platform focused on creating space for artists to meditate on the important themes of our time (Instagram: @\_honeyandsmoke\_). Aside from this, I recently launched the fundraising campaign for my short film *Trust Issues*, which tells the story of Aliya, a young musician confronting the aftermath of sexual assault and its effects on her relationships, her mental health and her career. Light stuff! Feel free to reach out to me if any of this is of interest to you; it



Columbia friends took a winter trip to Maui! Left to right: Winnie Zhang BC'19, Hidy Han '17, Anne Chen '18 and Caroline Chen '18.

would be great to reconnect! Find me on Instagram: @revasanto!"

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
carl.yin@columbia.edu

**Michael Jesse Abolafia** and **Amber Doll Diaz** GS'25 are happy to announce they got engaged on September 22, after dating for nearly a decade. The wedding is planned for spring 2021.

After a brief stint in professional baking, **Laney McGahey** is happy to report that she has started grad school at UC San Francisco with a focus on clinical research. She still lives in San Francisco and enjoys spending time with other Lions in the Bay!

**Elle Wisnicki** was applying for M.B.A. programs in January to become a healthcare entrepreneur in the mental health space. She would like to create a national urgent care system for affordable crisis treatment as an alternative to overrun emergency rooms.

**Louisa Carpenter-Winch** and **Elizaveta Kulko** GS'17 are engaged! They write, "We met several years ago in Havemeyer. We're no longer lab partners, but we're now life partners and are excited to get married. Cheers!"

**Tara Shui** recently went to Shanghai with **Jibben Hillen** SEAS'17. It was Jibben's first time in Shanghai — he especially loved the *sheng jian bao*.

**Bianca Guerrero** adds, "I am still at City Hall, working hard to pass a bill to guarantee two weeks of paid time off for workers in NYC. I spent much of 2019 organizing for progressive candidates: 2020 will be much of the same. Last summer, I began knocking on doors and making phone calls for Jamaal Bowman, a middle-school principal

and Justice Democrat running for Congress in NY-16, which includes the Bronx and lower Westchester. (I'm also excited to knock on doors for Samelys Lopez BC'01, running in NY-15.) I joined a volunteer-run political organization, Amplify Her, which helps elect progressive women running to represent NYC in local, state and federally elected offices. I serve as policy director, which entails creating questionnaires for candidates seeking our endorsement, hosting candidate forums and co-managing our endorsement process. We will announce our 2020 slate soon, which I'm really excited about!"

## 2018

**Alexander Birkel** and **Maleeha Chida**  
ab4065@columbia.edu  
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Happy New Year, Class of 2018! Read on to see what classmates have been up to, and as always, feel free to send us updates, big or small!

**Briley Lewis**'s first research paper was accepted into *Icarus*, a solar system studies journal from Elsevier. It's based on work about Pluto that she started at a summer internship during her time at Columbia.

Since graduating, **Abbey Li** has been traveling around the world, both for her job as an international arbitration paralegal and for her vacations. She rang in the New Year (and, as hard as it is to believe, the new decade) with her high school friends in Osaka, Japan.

**Elise Barber** has moved to Milwaukee to work for the Wisconsin Democratic Party. She is excited to talk to voters and work to elect Democrats to every level of the government in Wisconsin and in the 2020 presidential election. If you live

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!

CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.







in Wisconsin and are interested in getting involved in this effort, email her at [eliseibarber@gmail.com](mailto:eliseibarber@gmail.com).

In order to escape the cold in New York, Chicago and San Francisco last Christmas, **Caroline Chen** took a trip to Maui, Hawaii, with Winnie Zhang BC'19, Hidy Han '17 and **Anne Chen**.

## 2019

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

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[tag2149@columbia.edu](mailto:tag2149@columbia.edu)  
[eag2169@columbia.edu](mailto:eag2169@columbia.edu)

Happy New Year, Class of 2019!  
Here are updates from our friends:

**Brent Morden** is choir manager for Every Voice Choirs, a Teachers College-based singing program for kids 7-16. He also continues to freelance as a composer, arranger, vocalist and actor in the New York metropolitan area. Brent welcomes you to contact him: [brentmorden@gmail.com](mailto:brentmorden@gmail.com).

**Sofia Schembari** enjoyed a visit from **Adriana Fratz** in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, where Sofia is doing field work with white-faced capuchin monkeys. Sofia and Adriana have been friends since Days on Campus!

We send our best for a happy and healthy 2020 and look forward to catching up with everyone at our first reunion, Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6!



Sofia Schembari '19 (right) enjoyed a visit from Adriana Fratz '19 in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

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# obituaries

## 1944

**Van Dyk Buchanan**, retired professor, Santa Barbara, Calif., on January 20, 2018.

**Vance W. Weaver**, writer, newspaper columnist and blogger, New York City, on December 28, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to International Rescue Committee ([help.rescue.org/donate](http://help.rescue.org/donate)) or End of Life Choices New York ([endoflifechoicesny.org](http://endoflifechoicesny.org)).

## 1947

**Bertram M. Sussman**, retired manufacturing business owner, Stanwood, Wash., on February 20, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to Southern Poverty Law Center ([donate.splcenter.org](http://donate.splcenter.org)).

## 1948

**Robert W. McClellan**, retired journalist, Burlington, Vt., on September 9, 2019. McClellan earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1961. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Presbyterian Church, 1597 Allen St., Springfield, MA 01118.

## 1949

**Murry J. Waldman**, retired attorney, San Francisco, on January 15, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Emanu-El Tzedek Council ([emanuelsf.org/donate](http://emanuelsf.org/donate)), ACLU Northern California

([aclunc.org](http://aclunc.org)) or Environmental Action Committee of West Marin ([eacmarin.org/donatenow](http://eacmarin.org/donatenow)).

## 1950

**Patrick J. Barry**, orthopedic surgeon and knee specialist, Miami Beach, Fla., on December 27, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to The Elephant Sanctuary ([elephants.com](http://elephants.com)).

**Philip M. Bergovoy**, entrepreneur, Sarasota, Fla., on February 22, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley ([hudson.wish.org](http://hudson.wish.org)).

## 1952

**A. James Gregor**, professor emeritus, Berkeley, Calif., on August 30, 2019. Gregor earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from GSAS in 1958 and 1961, respectively. Memorial contributions may be made to your local animal shelter or to ASPCA ([aspc.org](http://aspc.org)).

## 1953

**William U. Bruch Jr.**, retired real estate executive, Bellevue, Wash., on October 30, 2019. Bruch earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1954.

## 1954

**Joel J. West**, psychiatrist, Laguna Woods, Calif., on December 20, 2019.

## 1955

**Robert E. Kushner**, retired attorney, Tuckahoe, N.Y., on August 23, 2019. Kushner earned a degree from the Law School in 1958. Memorial contributions may be made to UJA Federation New York ([ujafedny.org/donate](http://ujafedny.org/donate)) or American Civil Liberties Union ([aclu.org](http://aclu.org)).

## 1956

**Harold B. Reisman**, retired chemical engineer, Carlsbad, Calif., on July 29, 2019. Reisman entered with the Class of 1956 but earned two degrees from Columbia Engineering: a B.S. in 1956 and a Ph.D. in 1965.

## 1957

**Thomas J. Fagan**, retired mechanical engineer, Scottsdale, Ariz., on January 5, 2020. Fagan earned a B.S. from Columbia Engineering in 1958.

**Arthur E. Rifkin**, academic psychiatrist and researcher, Great Neck, N.Y., on July 7, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to American Psychiatric Association Foundation ([apafdn.org](http://apafdn.org)).

## 1958

**Harlan L. Lane**, psychologist, advocate for deaf culture, Boston and Roquefort-les-Pins, France, on July 13, 2019. Lane earned an M.A. in psychology from GSAS in 1958.

## 1959

**Robert M. Burd**, retired physician, Sarasota, Fla., on October 31, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ([lls.org/ways-to-donate](http://lls.org/ways-to-donate)).

**David M. Clark**, retired science teacher and wrestling coach, East Northport, N.Y., on August 15, 2019.

**Guy J. Manaster**, retired professor of psychology, department chair and graduate advisor, Dallas, on October 15, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to organizations that treat and research Parkinson's disease or Lewy body dementia.

## 1960

**Jerome H. "Jerry" Schmelzer**, public relations and urban development executive, Pepper Pike, Ohio, on September 14, 2019. Schmelzer earned a degree in 1962 from the Journalism School. Memorial contributions may be made to Cleveland Animal Protective League ([clevelandapl.org](http://clevelandapl.org)), Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage ([maltzmuseum.org](http://maltzmuseum.org)) or Columbia Journalism School ([journalism.givenow.columbia.edu](http://journalism.givenow.columbia.edu)).

## 1961

Rev. Canon **Gregory M. Howe**, retired priest, Provincetown, Mass., on January 12, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary of the Harbor, 519 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA 02657.

## 1963

**Victor Margolin**, emeritus professor of design history, Washington, D.C., on November 27, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Subud Washington D.C. c/o The Alkaitises, 1231 Hillcrest Rd., Arnold, MD 21012-2116.

**Barry J. Reiss**, attorney, Commack, N.Y., on November 23, 2019. Reiss earned a degree in 1966 from the Law School. Memorial contributions may be made to ALS Association Greater New York Chapter ([als-nyc.org](http://als-nyc.org)) or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation ([jdrf.org](http://jdrf.org)).

## 1964

**Steven T. Henick**, professor and retired business executive, Millersville, Md., on November 19, 2019.

### OBITUARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*Columbia College Today* welcomes obituary information for Columbia College alumni. Links or mailing addresses for memorial contributions may be included. Please fill out the "Submit Obituary Information" form at [college.columbia.edu/cct/content/contact-us](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/content/contact-us), or mail information to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10025.





## 1965

**Michael D. Cooper**, retired radiologist, Jerusalem, on February 27, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to ALS Therapy Development Institute ([als.net/donate](http://als.net/donate)) or American Friends of Zichron Ruth Kollet, 109 Bayit Vegan Street, Jerusalem, 9642621, Israel.

**Gary S. Engelberg**, humanitarian, Dakar, Senegal, on August 12, 2019.

## 1966

**Anthony F. Starace**, professor of physics, Lincoln, Neb., on September 5, 2019.

## 1979

**Michael R. Zakian**, museum director and professor of art history, Malibu, Calif., on January 14, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael

Zakian Exhibition Fund ([impact.pepperdine.edu/memorial](http://impact.pepperdine.edu/memorial)).

## 1980

**James R. Haslem**, attorney, real estate consultant, Santa Barbara, Calif., on November 9, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to ALS Association ([alsa.org](http://alsa.org)), VNA Health ([vna.health/ways-to-give](http://vna.health/ways-to-give)) or Hospice of Santa Barbara ([hospiceofsantabarbara.org](http://hospiceofsantabarbara.org)).

## 2007

**Daniel P. Bajger**, attorney, Bethesda, Md., on December 26, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia men's baseball team: by check, mailed to Columbia Athletics Development, c/o Emily Maury, Development Coordinator, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., New York, NY 10025, or online ([athletics.givenow.columbia.edu](http://athletics.givenow.columbia.edu)).

## Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55, University President Emeritus

**Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55**, the Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and a former University president, died on January 20, 2020, in Manhattan. He was 88.

During his 13-year term as Columbia's president (1980–93), Sovern opened the College to women; appointed the first female deans at the Journalism School, GSAS and the Law School; made housing available to all undergraduates; and brought about divestment from companies doing business in South Africa.

Sovern was born on December 1, 1931, in the Bronx to Julius and Lillian (née Arnstein) Sovern. His father was a partner in a women's clothing company and died when Sovern was 12. His mother became a bookkeeper after her husband's death.

Sovern graduated from Bronx Science. After his junior year at the College, he started classes at the Law School under the "professional option," earning a bachelor's summa cum laude and two years later a J.D., graduating first in his class and serving as articles editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. In 1957, he joined the Law School faculty, becoming a full professor three years later. At 28, he was then the youngest tenured faculty member at the University. Sovern

accepted a job teaching at the University of Minnesota Law School and stayed for two years before returning to the Law School in 1962.

In Spring 1968, when campus protests erupted and students occupied the president's office and other campus buildings for a week, Sovern decried what he called the "offensive notion" that faculty and students should confront each other as warring camps. "I cannot regard my students as adversaries; if they ever come to see me in that role, I shall leave teaching," he wrote in 1969.

Sovern was appointed chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, and his deft handling of the crisis was widely lauded. In the following months, he proposed the creation of a University Senate, a policymaking body formed in 1969 composed of faculty members, students, alumni and staff.

Sovern's involvement in the University Senate whetted his appetite for administration, and in 1970 he was named the eighth dean of the Law School, serving until 1979 and remaining an active full-time faculty member until his death.

While helming the Law School, Sovern recruited Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59 as its first woman law professor and Kellis E. Parker as its first black law professor. He also established the Center for Law and Economic Studies, expanded the school's clinical law programs and helped establish a number of scholarships. In 1998, an anonymous donor established the Michael I. Sovern Professor of Law chair, awarded to

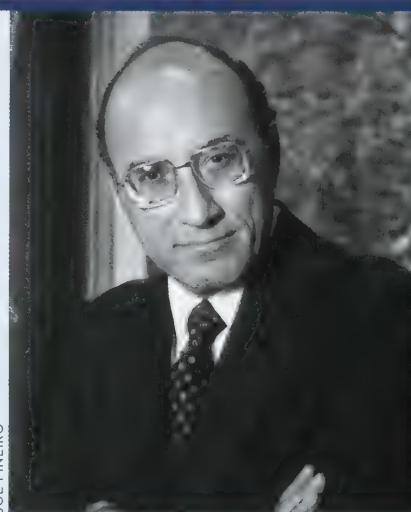
those who demonstrate outstanding promise in their teaching and writing.

Sovern was University provost and executive VP for academic affairs 1979–80, when he was named the University's 17th president, replacing William J. McGill. He faced challenges immediately: Columbia was not considered well managed, buildings were in disrepair and new faculty had to be recruited. "We were broke," Sovern said in a 2014 interview at Hunter College. But endowment soared during Sovern's tenure, growing from \$525 million to \$1.7 billion, and he oversaw the \$400-million sale of 11.7 acres of University-owned land beneath Rockefeller Center in 1985 to the Rockefeller Group, which had been paying the University rent since the 1930s.

Sovern announced he was stepping down from the presidency when his wife, Joan R. Sovern, a sculptor, was undergoing treatment for cancer. She died in 1993.

After leaving the presidency, Sovern chaired the Japan Society and the American Academy in Rome, and was president of the Shubert Foundation. In 2000, he was named to succeed the chair of Sotheby's. But his time at Columbia remained the focus of his pride: "No savvy gambler would have bet that a fatherless adolescent from the South Bronx, the first in his family to graduate from high school," he wrote in his autobiography, "would grow up to become president of one of the world's great universities."

Sovern was presented with numerous honors, including an honorary



JOE PINERO

LL.D. from Columbia, the College's Alexander Hamilton Medal, the GS Owl Award, the Law School's Medal for Excellence and its Lawrence A. Wien Prize for Social Responsibility, the Citizens Union Civic Leadership Award and two honorary doctorates. In addition to his wife, Patricia Walsh Sovern, whom he married in 1995, Sovern is survived by his daughters, Julie LAW'93 and Elizabeth; sons, Jeffrey'77, LAW'80 and Douglas; stepson, David Wit; 10 grandchildren; and sister, Denise Canner. Two earlier marriages ended in divorce.

In announcing Sovern's death, President Lee C. Bollinger said, "Mike loved Columbia, and did all he could to support and further its greatness — always, it should be added, with a smile, a clever quip and a good laugh. And there is so much more good he did in the world, beyond Columbia. Mike was one of the great university presidents of his generation."

## CCT Print Extras

Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55 reflects on his "improbable life" in a short video. Go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





## CORE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

In honor of the Centennial, we asked four artistic alums to take inspiration from the Core and provide a cartoon in need of a caption — one for each of our four issues this academic year. This installment is by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz '03, PS'08, a regular cartoonist for *The New Yorker*.

The winning caption will be published in the Summer 2020 issue, and the winner will get a signed print of Schwartz's cartoon. Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu) by Monday, May 11. And be sure to check out the Winter issue's winning caption on our Table of Contents.





## CORE TO COMMENCEMENT

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# CCT

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Summer 2020

## PREVAILING OVER PANDEMIC

ALUMNI SHARE STORIES  
OF LIFE DURING COVID-19

## VIRTUAL CLASS DAY

THE SHOW DID GO ON!  
CONGRATS TO THE  
CLASS OF 2020

## RACHEL FEINSTEIN '93

SCENES FROM HER  
FIRST MAJOR MUSEUM  
RETROSPECTIVE

# TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE TO COURT

Alex Loznak '19  
is suing the  
U.S. government  
for the right to  
a safer planet





VOLUME 47 NUMBER 4  
SUMMER 2020

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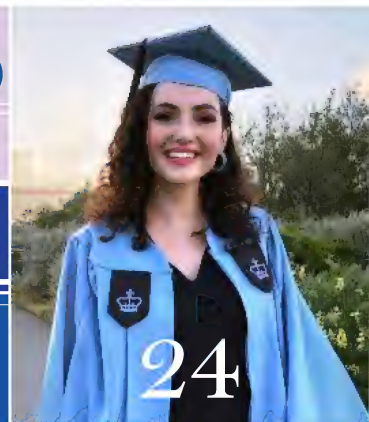
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### #CC20STILLROARS

We asked members of the Class of 2020 what it means to  
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DR. BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ '03, PS '08

*"In 1923, with the introduction of the home refrigerator in the U.S., a new art form emerged among some of the younger artists there."*

The winner of our third Core Centennial cartoon caption contest is Patrick Rapp '66! Thank you for all your submissions. This issue's cartoon is on [page 79](#).

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Our Core Centennial cartoon caption contest concludes with an illustration by Ariel Schrag '03.



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## Within the Family

# Notes on a Surreal Season

It's hard to know where to begin when writing this column, against the backdrop of these recent strange and devastating months. I look across my makeshift desk, out the window, where — after a chilly spring — green leaves finally fill the gridded pane. My husband, our 3-and-a-half-year-old daughter and I joined my parents at their home in Massachusetts in early April; they help with childcare while my husband and I work remotely. We take turns cooking dinner, then watch TV together or drift into different corners to decompress. At least once a day, we speculate how much longer.

I am enormously grateful for our situation, but as the weeks have passed, my homesickness has grown acute. I miss our apartment in Brooklyn; I miss my office in Morningside Heights. I miss the hour-long commute that took me from one to the other, a trip I often cursed (fie, MTA!) but that I now understand offered precious personal time to read or listen to podcasts or even nap until, on my luckier days, I woke just as the conductor announced my stop.

These are small and easy losses to catalog. There have been losses far, far greater in recent months — overwhelming in their scope and complexity, impossible to fully comprehend. I struggle to make sense of all that's happening: COVID-19, with its wrenching human and economic toll; the brutal murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and the subsequent protests — a communal keening that reflects too many years of injustice, heartbreak and anger, and which has demanded a national reckoning.

We each must decide how we will respond to these crises: How do we contend with their many facets; with whom will we share our thoughts and feelings; what calls to action will we issue or answer? These are conversations that begin quietly, in moments of self-reflection, and open outward to engage family, friends, community and others.

Of course, the community we have in common is that of Columbia College. As Dean James J. Valentini eloquently addresses in his message on [page 4](#), we are part of an institution where “much of what our undergraduates really explore is knowledge of the self and of their own humanity, in the context of others.” The foundation that the College instills in its students and alumni, and the awareness it fosters — for anyone who swims in its proverbial waters — have prepared all of us to consider the questions of equity, ethics, responsibility and democracy that are suddenly, urgently vital.

In this issue's cover story, we take up questions of responsibility relating to another of today's most pressing issues: climate change. There, the spotlight is on activist Alex Loznak '19, who, with 20 other young people, is suing the U.S. government for the right to a clean environment. The groundbreaking case, *Juliana v. United States*, charges that our leaders have caused undue harm to its plaintiffs by enabling and even encouraging policies that promote fossil fuels and carbon dioxide pollution. We look both at the remarkable case and Loznak's personal story — his crusade is inspired by his family's 152-year-old Oregon farm, which has become increasingly threatened by drought and wildfire.



Elsewhere in the issue, we invited 14 alumni to contribute reflections on the changes to their daily lives during the early months of the pandemic. Our original aim had been to create a time capsule of sorts, but as the project developed, we found ourselves moved and heartened in ways that we hadn't anticipated. We hope it does the same for you.

And speaking of heart, don't miss our graduation coverage, starting on [page 24](#). Class Day and Commencement went virtual in lieu of traditional ceremonies, and we highlight 10 seniors from the remarkable Class of 2020. The lessons they've taken from the extraordinary circumstances of their last semester — and the intentions they now carry into the world — are truly inspiring.

In case you missed our June 14 email announcement, I'd encourage you to read our recent Online Exclusive, a [Q&A with Dr. Ashish K. Jha '92](#), director of Harvard's Global Health Institute. In it, Jha — whom you might recognize from appearances on MSNBC and other networks — offers an optimistic prediction of our future, but doesn't mince words about what's gone wrong with the federal response to COVID-19. We also announced that we're posting this issue online only, having paused publication of the print magazine due to the financial implications of the pandemic.

We'll be back with a print magazine in the fall. In the meantime, I welcome your feedback at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). Be well.

*Alexis Boncy*

Alexis Boncy SOA'11  
Editor-in-Chief

The CCT team, clockwise from top left: Deputy Editor Jill C. Shomer, Editor-in-Chief Alexis Boncy SOA'11, Executive Editor Lisa Palladino, Associate Editor Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09 and Art Director Eson Chan.





## Message from the Dean

# Looking with Clear and Unblinking Eyes

When Columbia College began the academic year last September, it would have been impossible for me to imagine how differently it would draw to an end. While every year has its distinctions, as humans, we rely on predictable rhythms to guide us. At Columbia, we start on a grand scale with Convocation for the incoming class, then gather together in a sea of Columbia Blue for Homecoming, observe the quietude of fall and spring exam periods, and finish the year with several more grand events: Class Day, Commencement and reunion.

The past several months have reminded us that whatever we might expect, life presents the unpredictable. And this year, the unpredictable arrived on a scale and with a force many of us had never before experienced. The outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States began with ambiguity in February, but its rapid development into a massive public health crisis in New York City and elsewhere led us to a series of “first-ers” at the College. We moved to an entirely remote learning and working model in mid-March, and then, just a few days later, expedited the departure of thousands of students from our residence halls to activate what we all now know as social distancing and de-densification.

This past spring our typically blooming and energized campus was unrecognizable, absent of students, who concluded their year with examinations and final papers from locations around the world. Poignantly, our senior class experienced graduation ceremonies entirely through online experiences: videos, livestreams, Zoom receptions with faculty and more. As the final senior celebration was concluding on May 22, faculty and staff were already planning for summer and fall, anticipating the next phases of the pandemic and thinking of ways to prepare our 266-year-old school to adjust.

But in that moment of turning toward the future, the brutal killing of George Floyd on May 25, Memorial Day, jolted the nation into a new crisis that had a distinctly different feeling than the global health and economic crisis we were already in. The tragedy of yet another Black American’s unjust death demanded that each of us look to the present with clear and unblinking eyes, to acknowledge that the racism of today is the result of a dark part of America’s past. Some of our country’s history is not easy to reckon with, but the insistent protests, outpouring of heartache and outrage, and overwhelming pain of so many has drawn together millions of Americans in a desire to collectively listen, share and take action to address this fundamental flaw in our nation’s fabric.

Today, we face a future with two enormous challenges. By no coincidence, both are deeply rooted in the humanities and its enduring questions about equality, ethics, responsibility and democracy. COVID-19 asks us each to consider how to physically take care of one another and ourselves as part of our social contract. The issue of racial injustice demands that we reflect on why we have taken insufficient care of a certain population among us, resulting in Black Americans feeling especially vulnerable in our communities.

I am glad to be at Columbia College right now. Our students are part of an institution that is rigorous about learning, inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge. While we often hear about Columbia’s research and discoveries at the frontiers of science and medicine, much of what our undergraduates really explore is knowledge of the self and of their own humanity, in the context of others. The questions our students are asked to consider have been deliberated for centuries, but in a world as disrupted as today’s, those questions — and the importance of their answers — are even more significant.

Our circumstances challenge students, and former students such as yourself, to reflect on how to better care for one another, how to listen to others who are different from ourselves, how to expand our understanding of ethical obligations and how to actualize our values and beliefs every day of our lives. This is the essence of the “Civic and Individual Responsibility” competency within My Columbia College Journey, which all students engage in as part of their holistic development, and which we emphasize as much as or even more than academic achievement.

This is a particularly important moment to redouble the College’s commitment to The Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, which, since 2016, has engaged undergraduates and faculty in education toward advancing rights, justice and citizenship. We will explore programs and opportunities that further commit to Eric’s appeal that we never retreat into “the quiet prejudice of inaction.”

To learn in the classroom is the reason students come to Columbia College, and with our guidance they do. But we bring them to Columbia College to prepare them for a life beyond graduation, in which working to improve the human condition is an aim of their effort, whatever their profession.



*James J. Valentini*

James J. Valentini  
Dean



## Sophia Ahmed '21 "Sees" New Use for Used Goggles

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

Sophia Ahmed '21 had been thinking about ways to help during the COVID-19 pandemic, but she never expected her a-ha moment to come while unpacking dorm-room boxes in her parents' Michigan basement. There, in mid-March, she uncovered a pair of average, everyday lab goggles. For the Rabi Scholar, they had been a routine piece of gear. Could they now be put to a less routine use?



COURTESY SOPHIA AHMED '21

"We started hearing reports about hospital shortages and how they didn't have enough PPE to protect the healthcare workers," Ahmed says. "That seemed fundamentally wrong to me. If you can't protect the people who are supposed to be protecting *us*, how do you expect to get through this crisis?"

She and her sister Aishah, a similarly science-minded student home from Harvard, immediately began contacting hospitals in the Detroit area to ask if goggles could be of use. The answer was a resounding yes — and [EyeAid Detroit](#) was born. Its aim: to collect gently used (or new!) protective eyewear from college students, sanitize them and send them to Detroit hospitals and healthcare facilities. Interested donors sign up via the EyeAid website, then receive instructions about shipping and safety protocols.

Ahmed knew immediately it would be a numbers game. "Not many people have 100 goggles," she says, "but a lot of STEM students have a pair or two. And even other students — many people take Intro to Chem or a course like that. We knew we were going to depend on small, individual donations."

The pair took to social media and contacted friends from high school and college. "My Rabi community has been super supportive in helping to get the word out," notes Ahmed, who is a sustainable development major. As the weeks passed, they began receiving donations from further afield. "It's been amazing to see our second- and third-degree networks grow. Every day we get emails from students at universities where, personally, I don't know anyone — this morning it was Alabama — but they hear about us and email."

Ahmed makes a point of circling back to donors to let them know where their eyewear lands. To date, EyeAid Detroit has redistributed roughly 300 pairs of goggles, with hundreds more in the cleaning and prep phase.

"It's wonderful to see all corners of the U.S. come together and college students really feeling like they can make a difference in this," Ahmed says. She recalls a recent donation from the Michigan State University physiology department: "We opened our front door to this huge box. We weren't expecting it! And then we opened it — there were more than 60 goggles. It brought a lot of light and warmth to my day."

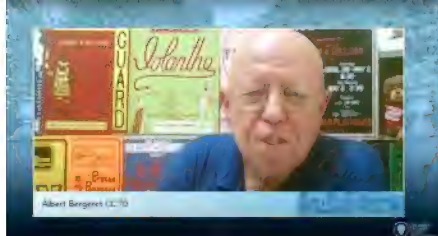
It's been especially meaningful to Ahmed to contribute in Detroit, one of the hardest-hit metro areas in the country and only about an hour from her home in Port Huron.

"This crisis has really allowed us to reflect on the communities that we're part of and the impact that they've had on us, and then the impact that we want to be able to have on those communities in return."



## Faculty Laurels

A pair of longstanding honors were awarded in May, when a committee of College students announced its annual awards for faculty members who have contributed outstanding work to publishing and academia. Saidiya Hartman, a professor of English and comparative literature and gender studies, received the 45th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval*. Anthropology professor Audra Simpson received the 59th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching for her “love and dedication to the act of teaching.” For more, see the [complete story](#) on the Columbia College website.



## Reunion Recap

Columbia Reunion 2020 went virtual on June 6 with a day of programming that included a live update with Dean James J. Valentini, a Contemporary Civilization lecture by Ruairidh Macleod Ph.D. GSAS'15 and a series of TED-style talks led by alumni and faculty. Among the featured speakers were (clockwise from top left) Albert Bergeret '70, founder, artistic director and general manager, New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players; Gina Fattore '90, president, Drowning Girl Productions; former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke '95; and Columbia associate professor of history Frank A. Guridy.

## FacultyLounge

# Madeleine Dobie

By Jill C. Shomer

Madeleine Dobie gets why everyone wants to read *The Plague* right now. Camus's novel is “an incredible account” of an epidemic in the French-Algerian city of Oran; but Dobie, the chair and director of graduate studies of the Department of French, whose teaching and research areas include colonialism and postcolonial literature, offers some alternative insights. “It’s much harder now to overlook the ways Camus portrays Muslim Algerians, and not to notice that the disease only seems to concern the white inhabitants,” she says. “We can extend that to thinking about questions about inequality and invisibility in public health in our own moment here.”

Dobie is a professor of Francophone literature — French texts from countries other than France, including colonies

or former colonies in North Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. She is also co-director of the Columbia Global Centers's eight-week summer program for undergraduate and graduate students, “Amman and Tunis: Middle Eastern and North African Studies,” which pairs intensive Arabic language study with a cultural and historical seminar.

“My interests have always tended toward the colonial,” says Dobie, who teaches and writes about the cultural dimensions of migration and diaspora, and about 18th-century French culture, particularly with regard to the history of slavery. “I’m drawn to the question of French outside of France, and its intersection with other languages and other cultural traditions.”

Dobie admits that her academic and intellectual path has been “rather meandering.” As a teenager in the United



Kingdom she was fascinated with the Arabic-speaking world, and began a B.A. at Oxford in Arabic and Islamic history. She changed course and graduated with a degree in philosophy and modern languages in 1989, then earned a Ph.D. in French from Yale in 1994. “Though it sounds disparate, all of these different strands have come together in my research and my teaching,” she says. “It’s interesting how some things you do can turn out to be important later on, even if at the time you don’t think you’re continuing down that path. I think we see that a lot in students, and it’s especially true of foreign language study.”

Dobie joined the Columbia faculty in 2002, after an assistant professorship



at Tulane. “At that time Francophone literature was a marginal field of French studies,” she says. “What’s been extraordinary over the last 17 years is to see a real transformation of our field and of my department. Columbia has really become a leading center of Francophone studies; canonical French literature is now being taught among new classics by writers from Africa, the Caribbean and other regions.”

When asked what she enjoys most about teaching, Dobie says she just really likes students. “I’m interested in them — they’re young people, they’re at the start of something, and that’s very powerful. I enjoy being part of the discovery of ideas, showing them works of literature that are going to move and inspire them. It’s interesting to see what lands. It’s fascinating to watch them develop and emerge as more self-assured thinkers and writers — that’s something that’s heartening as a teacher.”

Dobie was on sabbatical last year, working on a book about contemporary Algeria, *After Violence, Politics Memory and the Algerian New Wave*, in which she tries to move beyond the tendency to represent Algeria as a country defined by the memory of violence. “I try to direct attention toward recent achievements and initiatives in the arts and literature that have unfolded over the last 20 years,” she says. “I’m interested in the context in which works are being produced and received. A whole cultural milieu is being refashioned.”

She is also involved in an international collective project creating a three-volume comparative history of slavery. Dobie’s part is “Slavery, Literature and the Emotions,” which considers different literary and film representations. She has especially enjoyed collaborating with a cohort in Denmark; the group had several international in-person workshops, but has had to connect virtually

since the start of COVID-19 quarantines. “We’re all learning a lot about what we can and can’t achieve right now,” she says.

Dobie has been sheltering at her house in Connecticut with her partner, her daughter and her dog, Finn, whom she says has become quite the Zoom influencer. “He’s often on the meetings, doing emotional support outreach,” she laughs. “But I am worried about our students — our world has changed in a way we couldn’t anticipate. Wondering what I can do to help them has been a big part of my sheltering experience, to be honest.”

In the immediate future, Dobie says she and a historian colleague have decided to teach a new class on pandemics in French and Francophone literature and history this fall. “We’ve been sending a syllabus that we plucked out of the air back and forth between us,” she says. “I think you have to seize the moment of reflection.”

## DidYouKnow?

### Columbia’s 1811 Graduation Ceremony Is Known as “The Riotous Commencement”

Mayhem erupted during Columbia’s 1811 Commencement when students’ devotion to free speech and self-determination clashed with a University rule that all graduation orations must be edited by the Board of the President and Professors, and given exactly as approved.

During the final orations at Trinity Church (Columbia’s original location), John B. Stevenson CC 1811 delivered his speech without making the requested edits. He was subsequently denied his diploma, although he attempted to collect it three times in protest during the ceremony. The crowd quickly turned against the faculty.

The 1900–01 issue of *Columbia University Quarterly* looked back at the event: “The clapping and applause that greeted [Stevenson’s] third appearance on the stage now grew in volume, and it was plain that the sympathies of a large part of the audience were with the student.”

Stevenson eventually left the ceremony, but the crowd’s anger remained. Students continued to hiss and jeer, and soon the police arrived. *CUQ* continued: “... there were cries of ‘hustle the officers,’ ‘break down the stage,’ ‘persecution,’ ‘tyrants,’ and the like, the whole church being in a tumult. On the platform, the space of the faculty was invaded, and after a vain attempt had been made to go on with the proceedings, the president was forced to desist, and neither the degree of Master of Arts was conferred nor the valedictory delivered. It was impossible to conclude the exercise with usual solemnities, and President [William] Harris, along with the other members of the faculty, was forced to leave the stage, fearing that he would be forced off should he remain.”

## In Memoriam: Henry F. Graff GSAS’49, Professor Emeritus of History, Presidential Scholar

**Henry F. Graff GSAS’49**, a professor emeritus of history and scholar of the U.S. presidency and American foreign relations, died from complications of COVID-19 on April 7, 2020. He was 98 and lived in Scarsdale, N.Y.

A Columbia faculty member from 1946 to 1991 and an oft-requested speaker at reunion dinners, Graff was born on August 11, 1921, in Manhattan to descendants of Jewish immigrants from Germany. Raised in Inwood, he graduated from George Washington H.S. at 16 and earned a B.S., magna cum laude, from City College in 1941. A Phi Beta Kappa, Graff was working toward his master’s at GSAS, and was the first Jewish student in the history department, when he enlisted in the Army in 1942.

As a result of studying Japanese at Columbia, Graff served as a Japanese language officer and cryptanalyst in the Signal Intelligence Service, the predecessor to the National Security Agency. He read foreign communications and ciphers, particularly the now-famous “Purple” code: In November



1943, Graff translated part of a message sent by Lt. Gen. Hiroshi Oshima, the Japanese ambassador to Germany, to the Japanese foreign minister in Tokyo, which recounted in detail what the ambassador had seen of German preparations in north France. Graff also translated a message from Japan to the Soviet Union, detailing Japan's plan to get out of the war. In doing so, he was the first American to know of Imperial Japan's imminent surrender. Graff received a War Department Citation and the Army Commendation Medal for his service.

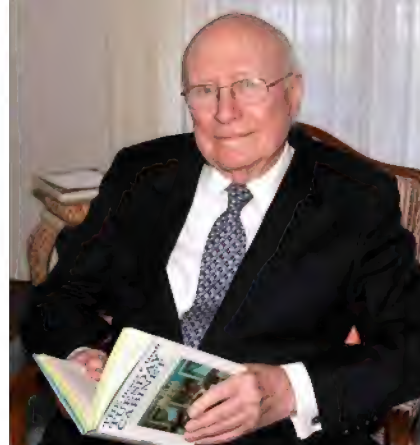
After his discharge, Graff taught history at City College for one semester before joining the Columbia faculty. He was honored with the College's Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in 1981 and the Society of Columbia Graduates's Great Teacher Award in 1982. In 2005, he was presented an honorary Litt.D. from the University. Graff also received City College's Townsend Harris Medal in 1966, in recognition of distinguished post-graduate achievement in his chosen field.

Graff knew several U.S. Presidents personally, including Harry S. Truman and

Gerald R. Ford, who sat in on his popular "Seminar on the Presidency" at Columbia in 1959 and 1989, respectively. He also knew Lyndon B. Johnson and Bill Clinton, both of whom appointed him to presidential panels. Beginning in 1971, Graff served for a number of years on the Historical Advisory Committee of the United States Air Force. He twice chaired the juries for the Pulitzer Prize in American history, and also chaired the jury for the Bancroft Prize in history, given by the Columbia University Libraries. Graff was for years a member of the Board of Directors of the Rand McNally Co., and had sat on the Board of Trustees of the Columbia University Press.

He was the author of 12 books, several textbooks and countless articles for historical and popular journals and magazines; he described his best-known book, *The Tuesday Cabinet: Deliberation and Decision on Peace and War Under Lyndon B. Johnson* (1970), as "an effort at explaining the administration's Vietnam policy as the president and his chief aides said they understood it."

Graff had been a visiting professor at Vassar College and lectured on many other



Henry F. Graff GSAS '49

campuses; he had been the distinguished speaker at the U.S. Air Force Academy, as well as the Sol Feinstein Memorial Lecturer at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Graff married Edith Krantz in 1946; she died in 2019. He is survived by their daughters, Iris Morse and her husband, Martin Fox, and Ellen Graff BC'77, LAW'78 and her husband, Andrew; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Graff's twin sister, Myra Balber, predeceased him.

*A memorial service will be held at a later date. To make a memorial contribution, contact [Regina Ketting](#), director of gift planning in the Office of Alumni and Development.*

## In Memoriam: Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman, Former University Jewish Chaplain

**Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman**, the University's Jewish chaplain from 1967 to 1969 and a controversial figure who "consistently defied convention," died from complications of COVID-19 on April 2, 2020. He was 84 and lived in New York City.

Goldman, who also went by "Rabbi Bruce," was a Reform rabbi, on the most progressive edge of the movement. He first came to national attention with his defense of the right of male and female undergraduates to cohabit in dormitory rooms, which was then in violation of some colleges' rules. His most well-known action, though, came during Columbia's student protests in 1968: When police prepared to attack the student sit-ins, Goldman placed himself as a nonviolent intervenor between the police and students; the police beat him semi-conscious. He was not rehired at the end of his two-year term, but stayed on at

Columbia as an advisor to Jewish students until the mid-'70s.

Goldman continued his activism, and was arrested in 1970 along with another member of the Columbia Radical Jewish Union after disrupting services at Temple Emanuel to protest the Vietnam War (the charges were later dismissed). He also hosted a radio program in the '70s, *Up Against the Wailing Wall*, on the progressive New York radio station WBAI. In 1972, Goldman set up the Center for Creative Jewish Living in Morningside Heights. In 1988, he appeared on Geraldo Rivera's TV talk show with Roy Innis, the national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality; the now-notorious episode ended with a brawl with white supremacists and a broken nose for Rivera. In 1994, Goldman placed second in the "Funniest Rabbi" contest at the comedy club Stand Up New York.



Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman

In later years, Goldman made his living performing marriages, often of interfaith couples, and providing counseling for children of Holocaust survivors and others. When asked by *The New York Times* in 1998 why he was willing to perform weddings for people of all faiths, he said, "People have a right to consecrate their love and friendship without being asked to surrender their values, heritage, tradition or children."



# The Swashbuckling Lawyer Who Was the Ultimate Spy

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90



He was the ace of agents — architect of covert operations, recruiter of undercover assets, manipulator of disinformation, gatherer of priceless intelligence, perpetrator of psychological warfare, the all-seeing man in the shadows.

This was William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan CC 1905, LAW 1907, the head of WWII’s Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency. More than anyone else, Donovan laid the groundwork for this country’s vast present intelligence network. He was, by Dwight D. Eisenhower’s sights, “The Last Hero.”

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Donovan cut an all-around Columbia figure — Phi Kappa Psi, the George William Curtis Medal for Public Speaking, track, crew and, finally, Lions quarterback. Although he graduated from the Law School (FDR was a classmate and admirer), he harbored a passion for bravado and derring-do. So in 1912 he joined some genteel Buffalo types (the “Silk Stocking Boys”) who, with official War Department permission, were organizing a local division of the New York National Guard. Ultimately they chased Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa from late 1916 to early 1917. Soon after his return, with the Great War raging, Donovan won command of New York’s famed “Fighting Irish” 69th Infantry Regiment.

In France, where he was wounded three times, Donovan — by then a major — earned his “Wild Bill” rep. After a disastrous encounter at the Ourcq River in July 1918, in which he lost 600 of his 1,000 men (among them Sgt. Alfred Joyce Kilmer CC 1908, of “Trees” fame), he showed considerable élan at that September’s furious St.-Mihiel offensive. “Get moving; what do you think this is, a wake?” he bellowed.

At the Second Battle of the Marne, he went into combat wearing his decorations and insignia, as if daring the Germans to target him. “They can’t hit me and they

won’t hit you!” he shouted. Though shot in the knee, attacked by gas and showered with the shreds of three of his men, he threatened to court-martial anyone who tried to get him off the field. For his actions, Donovan received the Medal of Honor. As Erasmus wrote — and as Donovan once jotted down — “Fortune favors the audacious.”

Come the Armistice, Donovan oscillated between his Wall Street law firm and public service. He was the U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York, assistant to AG Harlan Fiske Stone and a 1932 New York gubernatorial candidate. But his attention was increasingly focused on the new war in Europe. As it was, FDR was determined to help the British, but he wanted inside information about their ability to fight. Happily, the British foreign intelligence service, MI6, was eager to supply it. And so, in a series of discreet fact-finding missions, FDR dispatched Donovan to various war theaters to evaluate Axis and British capabilities and convey his impressions.

A certain Royal Navy officer, future James Bond creator Ian Fleming, helped plant a particular idea in Donovan’s head: Why not create some kind of integrated U.S. intelligence apparatus? Donovan agreed: “Modern war operates on more fronts than battle fronts.” He prevailed upon FDR, who on June 18, 1941, authorized an Office of Coordinator of Information, with Donovan as director.

Donovan turned the COI (it became the OSS in 1942) into a formidable enterprise. By 1943, its budget stood at \$35 million; by the end of 1944, it employed 16,000 people. Many were bona fide commando types, penetrating enemy lines to stage raids, destroy installations and commit miscellaneous mayhem. Others were analysts, decoders, snoops, thieves, paymasters, safecrackers and cartographers. Donovan’s ranks eventually embraced such luminaries as John Ford, Sterling Hayden, Stephen Vincent Benét, Marlene Dietrich, Archibald MacLeish,

Julia Child and Carl Gustav Jung, leading some to joke that “OSS” stood for “Oh, So Social!” So seriously did it take its clandestine purpose that others thought it an acronym for “Oh, Shush, Shush.”

“Strategy, without information on which it can rely, is helpless,” was one of Donovan’s mantras. He won his greatest acclaim through bold tactical operations. In May 1942 his agents burglarized the Lisbon office of the Japanese military attaché and stole his most secret cipher. In conjunction with the Army Air Forces, the OSS attacked 525 of 868 rail targets in France shortly after D-Day, causing massive logistical foul-ups.

Come war’s end, Donovan assumed that the OSS would continue, with he as its leader. But he had stepped on too many bureaucratic toes and made too many enemies. More important, many feared that a peacetime OSS would constitute an “American Gestapo.” The upshot was that the OSS was dissolved on September 20, 1945, with Donovan retiring as a major general.

Being honored with the College’s Alexander Hamilton Medal in 1950 and being appointed Ambassador to Thailand in 1953 did little to lift Donovan’s spirits. Hospitalized for dementia two years before his death in 1959, he “imagined he saw the Red Army coming over the 59th Street bridge, into Manhattan, and in one memorable last mission, fled the hospital, wandering down the street in his pajamas.” But his legacy is secure. Today, he is immortalized with a life-size bronze statue at the CIA’s Langley, Va., headquarters.

Another memorial, more abstract yet more personal, can be found on Columbia’s Amsterdam Avenue sky bridge. *Tight-rope Walker* features two spindly figures, one perched precariously atop the other’s shoulders. Dedicated to Donovan by his friends and associates, its daring poise captures what he once told Corey Ford CC 1923: “It isn’t how brave you were yesterday, it’s how brave you are today.”



# TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE TO COURT



Alex Loznak '19 is one of a team of young people suing the U.S. government for the right to a safer planet

**O**n August 12, 2015, Alex Loznak '19 walked into the federal courthouse in Eugene, Ore., with 20 other young people to sue the U.S. government. Their groundbreaking claim? That the government's lack of response to the growing climate disaster violated their Fifth Amendment rights, including, notably, their right to life. A life not threatened by extreme weather events; by wildfires, earthquakes and floods; by ocean warming and acidification, and so much more — in short, a life not threatened by the terrible, tangled ramifications of unchecked climate change.

The case, *Juliana v. United States*, accused the federal government of knowingly ignoring the catastrophic effects that carbon dioxide pollution and the country's reliance on fossil fuels was having on the

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**By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09**

**Photographs by  
Robin Loznak**

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**Loznak at  
his family's  
152-year-old  
farm outside  
Eugene, Ore.**



climate; further, that by supporting and promoting the country's current energy systems, its actions were actively harming the plaintiffs.

The young litigants hailed from across America — Hawaii, Florida, New York, Oregon, Colorado and more — united by a common cause and a willingness to push the envelope. Rather than seek policy change through legislation, and argue in the court of

Midtown and wondered whether I'd be putting myself and others at risk by boarding a cross-country flight.

Loznak and I had weekend plans to tour his family's farm an hour outside Eugene, and to talk about how the case that has been part of his life for the last five years has changed him. He was going to walk me through the hazelnut grove that he helped plant nine years ago and show me the swaths of old-growth Douglas firs that dot the landscape. I was eager to see the place that he had affectionately described as both "beautiful" and "in the middle of nowhere," and to learn how his experience growing up on a rural farm had influenced his environmental passion.

Halfway through my bus ride, word came via email that all Columbia employee travel was suspended immediately. My decision had been made for me — I would not be getting on a plane. In a flurry of emails with Loznak, we decided on a new approach to tell his story. Over the next few months we caught up several times by phone, as remotely connecting became the new normal.

The 570-acre Martha A. Maupin Farm has sat on the banks of Oregon's Umpqua River since 1868, passing from family member to family member through the generations. It has long been an important source of food and revenue for Loznak and his family: Plum trees grow in verdant orchards (the farm has historically produced prunes from their fruit); chickens and grass-fed

cows are raised (the family earns money from leasing pasture land to cattle ranchers); and a large garden supplies fruits and vegetables for personal consumption. Nestled in the Coast Range Mountains, the farm is also home to wild animals like elk and deer, and Loznak enjoys fishing for small-mouthed bass and salmon in the Umpqua River.

But in recent years, the 152-year-old farm has faced challenges its founding matriarch, Martha A. Maupin (Loznak's great-great-great-great-grandmother), couldn't have anticipated when she became one of the first women in Oregon to independently own ranch land. The state's growing drought conditions — as well as heat waves and the increasing frequency of encroaching wildfires — threaten the farm's future.

Loznak, a sustainable development and political science double major, is the seventh generation to live and work on the farm. Before joining the *Juliana* case, he had already been a passionate defender of the environment. He founded the Climate Change Club at



### **The plaintiffs in *Juliana v. United States* make their voices heard outside the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco in December 2017.**

public opinion with climate change deniers and those who put profits and short-term gains ahead of long-term sustainability, the plaintiffs took their belief in a constitutional right to a clean environment straight to federal court. At stake is nothing less than their — and our — futures.

The *Juliana* case is many things: a test of the scope and limits of the judicial branch; a bold statement on the power of youth organizing; an assertion that the science behind climate change and the damage it wreaks are no longer up for debate. On that mid-August day, however, Loznak had more than just the filing of

a life-changing case on his mind — he needed to pack, because he was days away from moving across the country to start his first year at the College.

**O**n the morning of March 12, I hopped on a shuttle bus to Newark Liberty International Airport, one of only three passengers on the usually crowded ride. The coronavirus outbreak was still in its early days in the United States, but potential travelers had already grown wary. My editor and I had spent the week before going back and forth on whether my trip to Oregon was still safe — a debate I promptly reopened via text as I took in the empty streets of

## **The plaintiffs took their belief in a constitutional right to a clean environment straight to federal court.**





Roseburg H.S., with the goal of installing solar panels on the school's roof, and the League of Umpqua Climate Youth, which is dedicated to the conservation of the Umpqua River's watersheds. Loznak also crusaded against the construction of the Jordan Cove LNG (liquefied natural gas) facility and its proposed 234-mile pipeline; the latter

would cross the Coast Range Mountains as well as five major rivers, including the Umpqua. (The original *Juliana* court filing spoke specifically to Loznak's pipeline opposition: "Alex has walked along the pipeline route and has seen the old growth trees that will be logged and the special rivers that will be impacted in order to deliver natural gas to what would be the largest, most-polluting facility and power plant in Oregon.")

Through his work, Loznak became acquainted with local activists and Oregon's environmental law community, and

learned there was a movement brewing to challenge the federal government directly for environmental protections. This new case would focus on young people — and the dire future they face if immediate action isn't taken to fight climate change.

"I'll never forget when Alex was first emailing me and calling me," says Julia Olson, executive director and chief legal counsel of

Our Children's Trust, the Oregon-based law nonprofit that is spearheading the *Juliana* case. "He was very persistent and very excited about the possibility of bringing his story and his family's story to this case."

For Loznak, *Juliana* boils down to a simple demand: "Basically, what we ask is for a court order directing the government to get serious and put together a plan to abate greenhouse gas emissions of the United States and prevent climate change from reaching a level that would be unsafe for youth, both now and in the future."

**J***uliana v. United States* takes its name from lead plaintiff Kelsey Cascadia Rose Juliana, an Oregonian whose activism began in the fifth grade; at 15 she co-filed a lawsuit against Oregon's governor asking for an emissions reduction plan, and at 18 she walked 1,600 miles from Nebraska to Washington, D.C., as part of a march for climate action. She'd turned 19 by the time the current case was filed, the oldest of the 21 plaintiffs. The youngest was 8, hailing from a Florida barrier island dealing with sea level rise and waters threatened by red algae blooms.


Among the other plaintiffs are an Arizona resident driven from her home on the Navajo Nation Reservation because of water scarcity; a Louisianan who has experienced eight 500-year floods — and one 1,000-year flood — in her state in just two years; and an Alaskan who has endured the effects of climate change on either end of the spectrum, from plummeting air quality due to wildfires, to an ice storm that robbed his family of power for a week in 18-degree

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**Media interviews have been a key part of Loznak's role since the case was filed in 2015.**

**"He was very excited about the possibility to bring his story and his family's story to this case."**





The hazelnut orchard is still several years away from producing at a commercial level.

## LOZNAK'S LEGACY

See more photos of the Martha A. Maupin Farm: [college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/loznak](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/loznak).

The plaintiffs' charge into what many have likened to a David-and-Goliath battle was a remarkable assertion that young people have a voice and power.

temperatures. Their and the other plaintiffs' stories together paint a vivid picture of the physical and psychological harm being caused; their sworn testimony details negative health impacts, emotional trauma and damage to their cultural heritages.

For a group who mostly couldn't even vote, their charge into what many have likened to a David-and-Goliath battle was a remarkable assertion that young people have a voice *and* power. They were also flipping the script by calling the adults to task for abdicating their responsibility as leaders and not embracing or instituting policies that would slow or reverse the environmental devastation. As one climate reporter for *The Atlantic* put it, "The kids were asking a federal court — and, inevitably, the Supreme Court — to take one of its most extraordinary interventions into American life since *Brown v. Board of Education*."

*Juliana* has slowly crawled through the legal system since that first filing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in 2015, being repeatedly met with attempts by the defendants to squash the case without its reaching trial. As Loznak succinctly puts it: "Most of my time in college — and since college — the U.S. government has been trying to get the case dismissed."

A major blow was dealt in January of this year, when a three-judge panel in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2–1 to dismiss the case. The majority said that despite the strong evidence that the plaintiffs had suffered from climate change, judicial action

was not the solution. "Reluctantly, we conclude that such relief is beyond our constitutional power," Hon. Andrew Hurwitz wrote in the majority opinion. "Rather, the plaintiffs' impressive case for redress must be presented to the political branches of government."

However, says Olson, "That's not the end of the road."

In March, the plaintiffs filed a petition for rehearing *en banc* with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; such a hearing would convene a new panel of 11 Circuit Court judges to review the January decision. But by mid-March, the COVID-19 outbreak had spread across the U.S., closing courthouses and further delaying the response of the courts. Even with the proceedings in limbo, Loznak remains hopeful: "We're in it for the long haul," he says. And regardless of how the rest of the case unfolds, it's already had a big impact.

"The *Juliana* case was one of the first times that federal judges have taken seriously the idea that there could be a constitutional right to a clean environment," says Michael Gerrard '72, an environmental attorney and the founder and director of Columbia's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. "The *Juliana* litigation was an important organizing tool, and [has] increased the consciousness of many young people about the importance of fighting climate change."

"Both the majority and the minority opinions from the Ninth Circuit contained powerful language about the dangers of climate change and the ability of people to sue about it that I expect will be quoted in many legal briefs in the years to come. The case is an instant classic and will be in the casebooks for a long time."

At the College, Loznak balanced classes with the case, including *Juliana*-related trips to Washington, D.C., research trips, and media interviews and appearances. As part of his efforts to build the fact record of the case, Loznak traveled to presidential libraries around the country to try to find the earliest government acknowledgment of climate change. He struck pay dirt in Boston, where he discovered, in a collection of letters, that President Kennedy was made aware of the dangers of burning fossil fuels and the resulting greenhouse gases as early as 1961.



Loznak recalls what it was like to hold “that very thin letter, the very same piece of paper that President Kennedy had held in his hands about 60 years earlier.” He adds, “The Kennedy Presidential Library is on the waterfront in Boston; it’s a very low-lying structure on the oceanfront. It was eerie to hold that piece of history and then to look out the window across the ocean and see how close we are to actually going through the catastrophe that was predicted all those years ago.”

That document was later used in *Juliana*, as proof the government had longstanding knowledge of climate change.

Loznak made it his mission to network wherever he went. “One of the things I saw in Alex over the years was just his fearlessness to approach people — renowned experts in their fields,” Our Children’s Trust attorney Olson says. “Whoever it was, he helped make connections for us in the case, and he also advanced relationships that we already had with experts by showing up and not being afraid to ask people to support our work.”

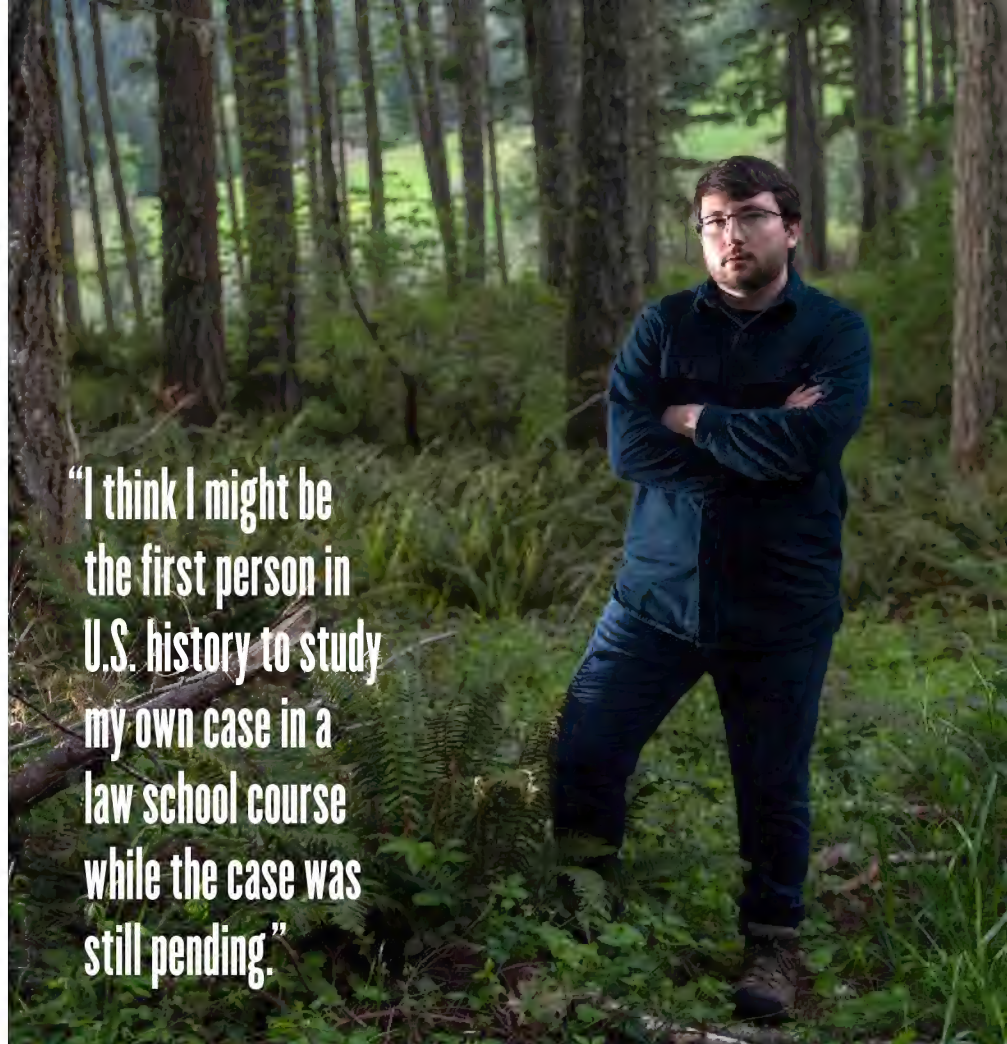
He recalls meeting Democratic Whip Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) during a trip to D.C. “It was very interesting to also have the real-world experience of actually meeting some of the biggest players in terms of making policy, making laws. It added a whole other dimension to my education on these topics.”

During his senior year, Loznak did a research internship with the Sabin Center. Together with his research partner, Madeleine Siegel SPS’20, Loznak reviewed federal environmental impact statements and environmental assessments issued by U.S. federal agencies in 2017–18. A look at 26 of these documents, for projects related to fossil fuel production, processing and transport, led them to conclude that federal agencies do not adequately consider how their actions will affect climate change — findings that, for Loznak, reinforced the value of the *Juliana* case.

“Basically, we have a system of environmental laws — passed about 50 years ago — that is just not living up to the task of dealing with climate change, so there needs to be some kind of new approach to

get us where we need to go. The *Juliana* case is at least an attempt to do that and to approach the problem in a creative, new way — that is, using constitutional law to try to force action at the national level.”

Loznak also took classes with Gerrard, who became a mentor to him as he navigated the courtrooms. (“Alex was extraordinarily engaged with the material,” Gerrard says, “and participated in class discussions very energetically.”) Loznak was even in Gerrard’s “Climate Change Law and Policy” class when the *Juliana* case was



discussed. “I think I might be the first person in U.S. history to study my own case in a law school course while the case was still pending,” Loznak says. “That’s a surreal experience.”

**A**fter graduation, Loznak headed back west, taking a job at a Eugene law firm; he plans to start law school at the University of Oregon this fall. When he and I caught up in May, he had left his apartment in Eugene to spend the coronavirus lockdown at the farm.

As we talked about how much the country had changed since our planned tour, he ruminated on how the pandemic had reinforced the importance of small farms like his family’s. “We’re starting to see, in some ways, the fragility of the large-scale, industrial agricultural system that we have here in the U.S., which is focused on mass producing as much of these basic commodities — beef, eggs, dairy, corn and so on — as possible at the lowest possible cost,” he says. “But when you have a shock, like the coronavirus, you start to see not only the environmental limitations of that system but also the basic health and safety issues.”

“The kind of agriculture we do is smaller scale, it’s lighter on the land and it’s ultimately healthier and more sustainable; it’s a model that we can look to as we, I hope, move to a sustainable form of agriculture.”

Loznak further reflects on the farm’s hazelnut orchard that he helped plant, and which is still a few years away from producing on a commercial level: “As a farmer, you really have to think on decadal or multi-decadal time scales, so that’s one reason I think coming from a farming background gives me a certain insight into the climate problem,” he says. “It’s a long-term thing. It’s not day to day, it’s not month to month — it’s year to year and decade to decade.”

## CONTINUING CLIMATE COVERAGE

Read more about Michael Gerrard '72 and the battle for climate change in our recent “Like Minds” feature. “The Denial of Science: We’re Already in Hot Water.”





# “WHAT HAS YOUR PANDEMIC EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE?”

FOURTEEN ALUMNI TELL US HOW COVID-19  
HAS SHAPED THEIR LIVES

GETTY IMAGES

In March, when we were considering CCT’s Summer 2020 issue, we knew that we wanted to address the shockwave that had upended and overtaken all of our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic was — is — that rare event that affects everyone with ties to the College. Even as this introduction is written, its vast, global story continues to evolve, expanding and deepening in ways that resist easy comprehension.

Against this backdrop, we knew we could tell a more personal story, create a record of how the coronavirus and its many ripple effects had been experienced by *our* community. And so, in April and early May, we asked 14 alumni to offer a keyhole into their daily lives: What did their new routines look like? How had work changed? What had been challenging, and where were they finding their joys?

The responses were varied, shaped by age, profession, location and all the personal variables that distinguish one life from the next. And what began as a kind of time capsule became, slowly, so much more. The reflections enlarged our view beyond the walls that had all too literally been hemming us in. They invited us to exercise our empathies, take comfort in shared experiences and — with so many of us social-distanced into solitude or small groups — feel the warmth of connection.

It will be a long time before we can fully reckon with all that’s happened and is happening during this pandemic. But we are going through it together, and we hope that our contribution can help.

— *The Editors*





## Lea Goldman '98

Editor-at-large, iHeartMEDIA; chief content officer at Nineteen Twenty Media

**T**hough I was an English lit major at Columbia, these days I find myself immersed in the sciences, living out Einstein's definition of insanity on the regular: watching the news, then instantly regretting it; begging/bribing/browbeating my kids to sit for home-schooling, only to surrender an hour later; channeling Alice Waters for breakfast, Chester Cheetah by lunch. Our days here at Casa Goldman (me, two grade-schoolers, one eye-rolling husband) are — wait, what day is it, again? We ditched the skim for half-and-half. We subscribed to Hulu. We pray to the broadband gods to keep our signal strong. We are, as the kids say, hashtag blessed.

"As a writer, I wrestle with a strange new tension: I have never felt more creative and yet so hard-pressed to eke out the time and focus to write. But I've still managed to bank a win or two. I launched a podcast called [Hazmat Hotel](#), in which I interview interesting people about how coronavirus has upended their professions. (Hit me up if you'd like to be a guest.) I finished my one-woman show about Jim Comey. I am knee-deep in a new screenplay. In the past eight weeks, one of my boys has discovered *Seinfeld*, the other 'Shark Week,' so that Hulu subscription is basically paying for itself now. The news from Casa G is that we are all OK, hanging in and enormously grateful, thank you for asking."

## Bianca Guerrero '17

Policy analyst, NYC Mayor's Office of Policy and Planning; volunteer coordinator, Bowman for Congress



**I** work for the Office of the Mayor in New York City full-time and coordinate volunteers on Jamaal Bowman's congressional campaign in NY-16 part-time. With local government on the front lines of the coronavirus crisis and, as I write, the June 23 primary less than two months away, I am busier than I have ever been.

"I spend 9 a.m.–5 p.m. during the week researching how U.S. and international jurisdictions are responding to the crisis, the impact it has had on localities' budgets and whatever the hot topic of the day is. After 5 p.m. and all day on weekends, I recruit volunteers, organize phone banks and other events, and update Bowman's list of COVID-19 resources for volunteers to share with voters. Campaign work is unwieldy, so my to-do list is never finished.

"I try my best to work out a few times a week and use Friday evenings to catch up on TV shows and work on crafts. I rediscovered my pottery tools when quarantine began and ordered polymer clay and embroidery floss to make earrings. A friend recommended that I



order a weaving loom to make tapestries and rugs — it just arrived, so I am going to try that this week. My roommate's mom might drop off an old sewing machine so I can try my hand at that, too.

"Work can be a bit overwhelming, so using my hands to make things for myself, family and friends is a welcome reprieve from corona madness."





COURTESY AMARI HAMMONDS '09

## Amari Hammonds '09

Associate deputy solicitor general, Office of the Solicitor General in the California Department of Justice

**“W**hat if I had to go about my life not knowing the next time it'd be OK to touch another person? I'm single and I live alone, so this has become an abiding question in the weeks, now months, since March 16, when the Bay Area announced its first-in-the-nation shelter-in-place order.

“I've learned that isolation makes the memory of my last human contact more indelible — a Kid 'n Play-inspired kickstep as my friend Colin left what would be our last Sunday pancakes together. We now connect through FaceTime meals; from afar, he's taught me how to make a poached egg. But I've also learned that regardless of health orders, video calls won't cut it. I'm grateful to have cultivated relationships with a select few who, like me, crave connection in the absence of the pandemic-friendly community offered by roommates or romantic partners 'adjacent' to their households. A conversation while biking 6 ft. apart is critical nourishment. I once petted a gentle old dog named Loki after one such ride to the Sausalito waterfront,

and it was like oxygen for me — though for her, probably more about the hot pastrami sandwich in my hand.

“Most importantly, I've learned to be gentle with myself for the swirl of feelings this all brings. It is possible to feel at once abandoned by friends who have hunkered down with the privilege of companionship, while also compassionate toward their choice — one I'd likely make, if given the option. It's OK to spend one night crying myself to sleep, wishing I could join my mom across the country, then the next cutting up playing Codenames over Google Hangouts as if I'd lived my life this way all along.

“Until 'normal' returns at some indeterminate point, in some indeterminate form, I'm learning what that looks like for now and receiving sweetness in every form. My friend and her husband recently invited me for a socially distant picnic, and to meet their puppy. I'll be there with a fashionably colorful mask and hand sanitizer at the ready.”





COURTESY BRENDON JOBS '05

## Brendon Jobs '05

Director of diversity and inclusion, The Haverford School; social studies methods instructor at the Penn Graduate School of Education

“School closed suddenly in March as the threat of pandemic became a real crisis. Like many, I’ve been going through a grieving process for the life, vigor and human connection that the schoolhouse offered me in all my years of teaching.

“At the start, I was overwhelmed with the multitude of tasks needed to make the transition [to remote learning] work for my students, faculty and other communities that I serve. Fear and duty defined my feelings in that moment. But it wasn’t long before anger and resentment grabbed hold of me. Hopeful proclamations that ‘we’re all in this together’ came from official channels; they offered encouragement that if we adhered to social distancing we could flatten the curve and ‘get back to normal.’ It wasn’t long afterward that nasty disparities in race and class, in keeping with pre-COVID-19 patterns, magnified. As an educator, I wondered: How can I explain this to kids? How does what they’re witnessing shape their understanding of how the world works?”

“As a black queer man growing up in the 1990s, I remember living with the fear of the AIDS virus. Implicitly, I was fed the message that I lived with greater risk of contracting the disease in a way that stigmatized me. Those old feelings have reemerged as I have witnessed COVID-19 transform from a foreign threat into

a health crisis disproportionately infecting and killing Black and Brown people; meanwhile, violent, armed calls to reopen businesses rage from white protestors in Michigan and Pennsylvania despite these deaths. My mother and sister still report to their jobs as ‘essential workers,’ and my father lost his job abruptly as an early casualty of the predicted economic crash. These disparities will only grow as long as we continue to allow politics and business interests to make us willfully ignorant to wild differences in the human experience of this moment. I often struggle to imagine a different, more hopeful outcome.

“I find peace in the time I now have to make a home with my partner. I love getting lost in a good recipe or a good book (currently reading *Here for It: Or How to Save Your Soul in America* by R. Eric Thomas ’03) and taking long walks through Germantown with our dog. Each day, I’m near the students, practitioners and leaders I connect with, now from my dining room table, as we build a new digital landscape for teaching and learning in communities of love and care. In my own practice, social-emotional learning now outranks any curricular concerns I have had for students and colleagues. We are living history, and my function has been to make space for folks to be present and reflective in the face of this global crisis.”





COURTESY DR. JOSH JOHNSON '13

## Dr. Josh Johnson '13

Surgical resident, NewYork Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center

**R**inging loudly in the background of my day is a cacophony of alarms and notifications that are meant to signify an imminent medical emergency — yet they have become so ubiquitous that I can no longer distinguish among them. The hours I spend on the wards have not changed much; I am here for anywhere between 12 and 24 hours a shift, depending on the day. However, the intricacies of my work have shifted dramatically. Willing or not, I am greeted each day by an endless list of patients with tarnished lungs who require the utmost interventions possible to keep oxygen flowing throughout their bodies. It has been truly taxing.

"The difficulty lies in having to carry on and continue my duties without the time to grieve our losses, to celebrate our wins and to reflect upon our struggles. Yet what has been remarkable is that my connection to my patients and their families has never been deeper. Though my patients cannot speak to me, I hear their pain. Though I cannot see their loved ones in person I have had immensely intimate conversations with them, and I have forged relationships based solely on trust and hope. During this pandemic I have healed others more through compassion and understanding than I have through modern science. That is the lesson I hope to never forget."

## Rabbi Alvin Kass '57

Chief chaplain, NYPD; adjunct professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**L**ife in the Age of COVID-19 has not been simple or easy for any of us. I've had to respond to new challenges: teach classes remotely, conduct Zoom funeral services, attend virtual meetings and counsel the troubled by telephone. Perhaps the most awesome responsibility of all was to fulfill a request to do a [video](#) with a message of 'uplift' and 'encouragement' for our police officers. Quite frankly, reading the newspaper reports every day about the ever-mounting casualty figures, and discovering that many of the victims are people I know and love, leaves *me* in need of uplift and encouragement. However, I felt this was really important because police officers are among the first responders to have suffered the heaviest casualties. After all, they are required to answer the call of duty regardless of the risks, including the coronavirus.

"Somehow, notwithstanding my own concerns and anxieties, I managed to put something together. It was based on Mark Twain's observation that courage isn't the 'absence of fear but the mastery of it.' There are two ways to transcend anxiety: faith in God and faith in each other. To believe in God is not simply to believe that there is a deity who will intervene and alter reality to accord with our wishes. Even more basically, it is the confidence that there is a Benevolent Intelligence undergirding the universe that fills us with the hope, optimism and trust that human beings possess the wisdom and skills required to solve the toughest problems.

"Then there is the most effective therapy of all — each other. Men and women, helping and supporting one another by doing



COURTESY NYPD

things they don't have to do, is the essence of love and closest we shall ever come to experiencing genuine spirituality. It is true that COVID-19 requires us to stay apart physically, but getting in touch with each other — as well as family, friends and neighbors assisting each other — can be so important and pivotal in transcending this crisis. I certainly cherish the calls and emails I have received as I cope with the physical distancing of this experience. What they proclaim in the most eloquent and dramatic way possible is that we don't have to struggle with this alone."



## Ian Lendler '96

Children's book author

**L**ike so many others, the virus, alas, has afflicted me.

"For I, you see, am a writer, and I write things of terrible importance. I am a Creator of Truths, a conjuror of metaphors. Every morning I sit at my desk and I call to my Muse; she answers, and we begin a delicate dance of words and images and — oh yes! — similes as well! And just as my prose begins to touch the great mysteries of Life —

"DAD! DAD!" My children burst into the room. 'Can we have some Goldfish crackers?'

"Be still!" I shriek. 'What matters your aquatic-shaped snacks when I seek Beauty?'

"But it is too late. My Muse begins to back out of the room. She says, 'You never told me you had kids.'

"You don't understand," I splutter. 'Normally they're at school now.' But she is already gone.

"Then, my wife shouts from a different room that she's on a Zoom call and the kids need lunch.

"So I make my kids lunch.

"In the afternoon, once again, I tap at my keyboard, calling my Muse back, and with a curtsy and an impish wink, she and I begin to weave our —

'Dad! DAD! We're playing Fortnite with our cousins. We need your computer!' and my kids snatch my laptop away.

"And so I wander the house, alone, bereft of my computer (and thus, all meaning), until my wife shouts from a different room that she's on a Zoom call and can I get dinner started?

"And tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow creeps in this sheltered-in-place ... until ... what's this?!

"I have been asked to do an 'Instagram live reading,' whatever that is ... But I seize



COURTESY IAN LENDLER '96

my chance to perform for my adoring audience. To conjure worlds for them; to shaman their imaginations to an ethereal realm.

"So for your undoubted delight (and the consideration of Nobel Prize committees), I give you what I believe to be my most harrowing and important work to date."

## Steve Martinez '11

Television producer, ESPN's *The Jump*

**T**he show must go on, but my daily routine has been altered significantly. *The Jump* is now entirely produced from home: on-air talent, producers, directors and so on; we're doing our best to help deliver to folks a 30-minute slice of escapism every day. Most of our work in production is now done the night before a show (previously, most of the production occurred the morning of). We complete our daily tapings by 11:30 a.m. PT, but by 1:00 p.m. PT, we are on a conference call discussing the plan for the next day's show. The current production strategy involves a balance between

staying ahead in terms of preparation and being ready for news to break at a moment's notice.

"Communication has been a challenge at times. It might not look like it at home when you see three people on your screen, but it takes dozens of talented folks to put on a TV show. My previous routine heavily relied upon face-to-face communication for most of my catching up with staff members.



PHOTOS COURTESY STEVE MARTINEZ '11

With that out the window, there's a lot of phone conversations and/or texting, which I fear is simply not as effective all of the time.

"I find joy in spending time with my wife, Stephanie, and my dog, Callie, here in my Los Angeles home. I also take great pride in the ability to get a show on the air with the entire staff working from home, something we never knew was possible until we were confronted with that problem. Mainly, I just want the NBA back."





## Mike Mellia '02

Director, photographer, creator of advertising for fashion and lifestyle brands

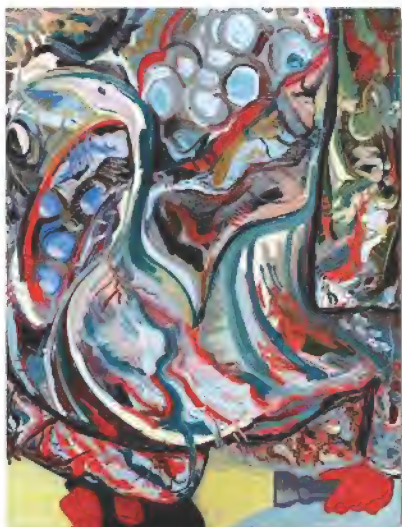
**"M**any of the world's greatest successes took place in a garage — Apple, Google, Disney. By the same token, I always loved seeing pictures of Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, two great abstract expressionist painters, painting in outdoor barns on Long Island during the 1950s and 1960s. They said they liked the light. What I really think they needed was the isolation and the silence.

"To paint, to write computer code, to play music, to write, to play sports, to meditate or to do anything creative all revolves around being in a 'flow state' — that tunnel-vision feeling of being

in the zone where 14 hours passes faster than 5 minutes. Neuroscientists describe this as your brain operating on alpha waves, the ideal state of consciousness that not only produces extreme creativity but also is necessary for your well-being. And so, like most days,

pandemic or not, I'm in the 'garage.'

"To me, painting is a performance with an audience of zero, and the record of that performance is the physical object created, a mysterious enigma. Over tens of thousands of hours of practice, you train yourself to not even be conscious of yourself; it feels like I'm watching someone else paint a picture. There is also some element to painting that feels like robbing a bank: the intensity, the speed and the risk that you can only experience after learning to transcend all your experience and training. These large oil paintings are inspired by the wild chaos, the light and the color of nature I'm experiencing with my wife and two babies at our home in Southampton, N.Y. I hope they will bring you some joy."



PHOTOS BY MIKE MELLIA '02



## Ron Padgett '64

Poet

### Geezer Fitness

I just did twenty-five push-ups,  
then vacuumed the floor  
and then dropped down  
and did twenty more,  
for what reason I cannot say  
or even want to think about,  
especially at this moment  
when I am still breathing hard.

### Locked

I almost didn't know what  
day it is and then  
I did, locked into time,  
suddenly more secure  
that it's Thursday!  
Which means nothing  
or next to nothing.  
I am next to nothing—  
it's in this room with me,  
an old pal.

### What to Do

Snow falling from gray sky,  
it's time to bake,  
scones, I mean,  
and right out of the oven  
take one and butter it,  
with jam, teapot hot at hand,  
and exult in the fact  
of everything horrible.



PASCAL PERICH



## David Peng '83

Head of Asia Pacific Ex Japan at Legal & General Investment Management; president, Columbia University Alumni Association Hong Kong



COURTESY DAVID PENG '83

**"T**hough I am a New Yorker, I have spent my professional life in North Asia and this is my fourth posting in Hong Kong, with in-between postings in Taipei, Shanghai and Beijing. I was in Hong Kong during the SARS epidemic in 2003. Most people in Hong Kong remember that period well. When news broke in January about what was happening in Wuhan, people in Hong Kong quickly realized the potential of another epidemic.

"The Hong Kong government was quick to put in place restrictive measures. To date, Hong Kong has never had an official lockdown, but people take the lead from the government, which asked all civil servants to work from home under two orders. People in Hong Kong are very careful to protect themselves and others, and mask wearing is universally practiced. With one of the highest population densities in the world, Hong Kong has managed to ward off a high level of viral transmission and achieved minimal death.

"When I traveled to London for meetings at the end of January through the middle of February, friends and colleagues were not concerned. They also thought it was odd that there would be runs on basic supplies like toilet paper. We know now how quickly the virus traveled and the devastation it has inflicted on our world, with the highest rates of infection and death in Europe and the United States.

"At my office in Hong Kong, we continue to practice a work-from-home policy. Our U.K. head office went into lockdown. This forced many businesses to operate remotely and digitally. For many of us, it was a continuation of the restrictions we have become accustomed to.

"My proudest moment thus far during this pandemic is how the Columbia community in Greater China and Singapore banded together to raise funding to procure and donate PPE to our frontline medical professionals and essential workers. We raised more than \$2.1 million in a matter of weeks, which allowed us to donate masks, respirators, gowns, gloves, eye protectors, hazmat suits and more to Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and other affiliated hospitals and emergency service providers.

"During my time at Columbia, I was an official University tour guide. The highlight for me was always Low Memorial Library, where I would stop my tour group in front of the Columbia motto. In Latin, it reads: *In Lumine Tuo Videbimus Lumen* ('In thy light we shall see light').

"During these dark times, it is my great hope that the pandemic has shown us how we can be better ourselves and that, united, we shall continue to see the light."

## Jill Santopolo '03

Editor and author



PHOTOS COURTESY JILL SANTOPOLO '03

**"O**n March 12, when Penguin Random House (PRH)'s work-from-home policy began, I grabbed my laptop and headed out of New York City, down to Washington, D.C., where my husband works and where we have a second small apartment. I figured we'd be there for a week at the most, until he began to work from home, and then we'd head back to Manhattan. I'm writing this on May 8. We haven't yet been back. We are grateful to have jobs we can do from home — his in data and analytics, mine as an editor and novelist. But both of us working from home has meant getting creative with our 700-sq.-ft. space. The bedroom is his office, the rest of the apartment, mine, with a desk — actually, a table that formerly held our record player — next to the refrigerator.

"In the last eight weeks, we've luckily stayed healthy, and tried to keep things business as

usual. I handed in the final revision of a novel. I edited books, acquired new ones, met with my PRH team. We've checked in on friends who are sick and others who are grieving, and tracked the new COVID-19 cases in D.C. and NYC. We've gone on late-night, masked walks, taking in the beauty of the cherry blossoms and the grandeur of the neoclassical buildings on Capitol Hill.

"But at the same time, I can't stop thinking about New York City. I lived there during 9-11, the 2003 blackout, Hurricane Sandy. I feel like I've abandoned my city in its time of need. Neoclassical buildings are beautiful, but so are skyscrapers.

"This pandemic might have made me a Washingtonian, but it also made me realize that in my heart I will always be a New Yorker."





ARIEL KAO

## Simon Schwartz '17

Entrepreneur; founder, Locasaur

**I** left New York in mid-March thinking I'd be back in a matter of weeks, and my packing reflected this. As the situation became more clear, I realized I'd be staying here for a while, on my family's farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Those who know me know I'm not exactly upset by this. I grew up here, alongside a rotating menagerie of horses, chickens, sheep and the occasional goat. There are 10 shades of green in every direction, and I've never been more



COURTESY SIMON SCHWARTZ '17

thankful for the wide open, secluded space.

"So much of what's great about New York happens after dark, and waking up early is done at your own peril. When I'm home, however, I'm on 'farm time.' Coffee is on and the house is buzzing by 6:00 a.m. My company Locasaur's daily standup isn't until 10:00 a.m., so early mornings are usually given to farm tasks and chores. There is a rhythm that you get into living on a farm; days keep churning, things keep needing to get done. A farmer's mindset is that no matter the day's challenge, you find a fix.

"These early-morning hours are honestly my calm, in a world that isn't calm at all. I get to work with my hands and be outside more than I ever did in NYC. What others might see as mundane tasks and responsibilities, I see as therapy.

"The majority of my day is devoted to remote work of the most urgent kind. Locasaur is a relationship app for local businesses and their regulars, and right now local businesses need their regulars more than ever. Every creative solution demanded by the reality of COVID-19 — the bakery now doing roadside pickup, the florist who started delivering, the bartender selling pre-mixed cocktails — starts with a business having a group of core customers who truly care about it. Our goal is to power some of those creative solutions and help these businesses go digital without giving up the 'personal touch' that means so much to their survival. The next 12–18 months won't be easy, but local business owners are uniformly some of the toughest people I know. In many ways they, too, have a farmer's mindset."

## Margaret Traub '88

Head of global initiatives, International Medical Corps

**M**y work is emergency medical relief, so the pandemic has taken over my daily life in every way. My organization normally works in conflict and disaster zones overseas, but with COVID-19, in addition to responding to the pandemic in 30 countries, we have deployed healthcare workers and supplies on the frontlines here in the United States — at hospitals in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Puerto Rico, so far.

"My days start around 5:30 a.m. — bleary-eyed in bed, scrolling through emails and the latest news. I learned early that if I don't get into the shower by 6:30 a.m., I wind up chained to Skype and video calls in my PJs (and sometimes a nice blouse) until 5:00 p.m. Yes, that's happened more times than I'm comfortable admitting.

"In between calls with our teams — mostly about procuring PPE, or moving supplies and clinicians, or raising money — I'm checking in with my family in New York, Utah

and Arizona. I have a severely immuno-compromised sister and healthy but 90-ish-year-old parents, so I worry constantly about



COURTESY MARGARET TRAUB '88

them and have to resist the urge to go be with them. I frequently text and call friends, including my Columbia pals. And at some point during my days I try to squeeze in a workout — usually to old episodes of *30 Rock*. Another important COVID-19 distraction: cooking and baking, which I love.

"My heart breaks every day, thinking of the suffering going on around us. And not a day goes by that I don't feel grateful to be healthy and to have a mostly healthy family and a job that puts a roof over our head and food on our table.

"Thanks to all those heroes out there, putting their lives on the line to serve their fellow humans. Everyone stay safe and healthy!"

### TALKING POINTS

Visit our website on Tuesday, August 18, to read more about alumni's lives during COVID-19: [college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/talking\\_pandemic](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/talking_pandemic).





GRADUATION2020



Top row, left to right: Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82; Maryam Khaled Hassan '20; and Stacy Tao '20 with her family; bottom row, left to right: Claire Fry '20; Laurans A. Mendelson '60, BUS'61, Victor H. Mendelson '89, Alexander Mendelson '23, Nicole Mendelson '20 and Lindsey Mendelson '18; Dean James J. Valentini; and James Ritchie '20.



PHOTOS COURTESY VICTOR MENDELSON '89, MARYAM KHALED HASSAN '20, NING CHENG, CLAIRE FRY '20 AND SIHAN TAN SOA'20

# UNIQUELY UNITED

THE COLLEGE PRODUCED ITS FIRST-EVER  
VIRTUAL CLASS DAY TO HONOR THE CLASS OF 2020

**MORE THAN 8,000 VIEWERS** tuned in on their computers and televisions on May 19 for the College's [first virtual Class Day](#) — a colorful ceremony featuring messages and photos from graduates and their families, with remarks from Dean James J. Valentini and keynote speaker Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82. The broadcast united the graduating class across oceans and time zones, from Santa Clara to Brownsville, Dhaka to Buenos Aires. This was — as Valentini noted in his welcome remarks — an unprecedented celebration for unprecedented times.

Senior Class President James Ritchie '20 highlighted the uncommonly common experience of a most unique Class of 2020. "We arrived in Morningside Heights in the 'Yes We Can' era of hope and positivity," said Ritchie. "And try as the universe did to break our spirits, we improvised, adapted and overcame. We were and are a special class. We are resilient even as we have been made to handle far more than we thought we could."

Raised in the South Bronx and Washington Heights, Acosta, presiding justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, emigrated from the Dominican Republic to the United States with his family at 14. A former star on the Lions varsity baseball team, he was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008.

In his [remarks](#), Acosta paid tribute to his father, who died recently, at 97, of complications from COVID-19: "He showed me that my contentment is directly related to the path I follow to success and the lives that I impact." Acosta praised the Core Curriculum as something that provided him guidance in becoming "someone who values giving back to my community, cherishes the rule of law and has chosen to work within the system to ensure that justice prevails."

Acosta challenged the Class of 2020 to "continue to find ways in which to help others through your work," for "this challenge will not only benefit society, but it will also be the beginning of a more satisfying part of your life's journey, where you will discover that there is no substitute for a balanced life, which includes service to others."

The next day, the members of CC'20 joined graduates from across the University for [virtual Commencement](#). The deans of all of Columbia's schools gave speeches before President Lee C. Bollinger formally conferred their degrees. To further mark the day, a surprise gift was delivered: an original song, "Oh, Columbia," written by composer Tom Kitt '96 and performed in a special video by actor Ben Platt GS'14.

See Class Day photos from around the world in the [Columbia College Facebook album](#).



## #CC20STILLROARS

WE ASKED THE CLASS OF 2020 what it means to graduate at this moment in time, and though every answer was unique, several themes emerged. Though they missed being on campus, the graduates have a deeper appreciation for all the experiences that came before. They learned as much from people outside the classroom as they did in their courses. They're proud of themselves and each other. And they're ready to make a difference in the world. **ROAR, LION, ROAR!**

Find more student reflections, as well as this year's list of Academic Awards and Prizes recipients, [here](#).



### BRIANNA SHU YANG

"I will always credit Columbia with honing my sense of civic purpose. I have discussed and debated citizenship and social responsibility in my Core classes, especially Contemporary Civilization. I have met so many people who passionately advocate for issues they care about. I've been inspired to do the same, and to make it my mission in life to break down barriers to civic engagement. Go vote.

"I feel like it's common now among seniors, at least among my friends, to mark the occasion when we finally broke down crying about this unexpected end to our senior year. There is a sort of catharsis in this act. In many ways, being physically apart has brought us closer together, and it has underscored that what is, and has been, most important this year is celebrating how far we've all come.

"The most important lesson I will take away is this: Nothing is worth doing if it is not in the service of others. The greatest thing we can do with our education is to work toward change, no matter how big or small, that promotes a fairer world."

### DIMITRI GODUR

"Thinking about the future, I know I'll appreciate the connections and networks I established with fellow students, faculty, mentors and professionals. My Columbia education has made me a better-informed citizen, both politically and socially, with a deeper understanding of the history and philosophies that continue to govern our society. ...

"I am beyond proud of every single member of my class and all they have accomplished. My message is to be bold, push yourselves beyond your comfort zone and never be afraid to continue taking risks, as you have already done. And of course, massive congratulations to all on your hard work and ending the year with a BANG!"







### ANTHONY ARGENZIANO

"Being at the College has always meant that everything happens between Broadway and Amsterdam, from 114th to 120th. From my freshman year to my senior days, I have always considered myself very lucky to live with and near those closest to me. This past semester, I've missed my friends and the campus that was the straw that stirred the proverbial drink. ... I've realized with our spring being cut short that life doesn't work in clean-cut phases like some people tend to believe; college is not a separate four-year life or oasis.

"With this, though, I've developed a new hope. If there are no clear boundaries separating events over time, and if it is never too early for something to end, it must follow that it is never too late for something to start. Here's to friendships yet to be made, passions yet to be cultivated and fulfillment yet to be had."

### SEMIRA AFIA KAZURI BROWN

"Columbia has served as a crucible of my character, my intellect, my artistic inclinations, my physical and mental health, and my work ethic, and I am so much better for it. I know myself far more comprehensively than I did four years ago, and through extending my comfort zone, working hard and challenging myself, I have a newfound, incandescent confidence that is intrinsically rather than extrinsically derived. I know myself, love myself and genuinely believe that I can do anything.

"The extraordinary circumstances of this year have shown me how temporary everything truly is, how ephemeral worldly attachments are and how timeless human connections will always be."



### ANDREA LIN

"Columbia was the perfect combination of idealistic introspection and #NewYorkTough. It has taught me to be gentle and sensitive in my heart, and bold and fearless in my actions."

### TASFIA TABASSUM

"These past few months I've really missed the gatherings, especially how everyone would sit on the grass and on Low Steps. Whatever we were doing, it was the fact that we were together that gave it a feeling of belonging.

"Out of my entire college experience, I most appreciate the friends that I've made and the people whom I've met. I believe that we're meant to meet the people we meet, so every single interaction that I've had has only added to my experience and my self-love journey.

"I hope one day we'll all look back and see that, all along, we were growing. The moment where our limits were being tested, we were actually being strengthened. Here's to a new journey, a new beginning!"







Cara

### CARA MAINES

"I miss walking around campus and running into friends. It was amazing how amidst thousands of people, I would always see a few friendly faces on College Walk or the endless Hamilton stairs. I also miss Morningside Heights. The best feeling in the world was coming off the subway from a bustling neighborhood downtown and feeling at peace and at home. ...

"The Core Curriculum was a large part of what drew me to Columbia, and now that I have completed it, I can say that it was — without a doubt — the defining feature of my academic experience. I believe I am a more critical and compassionate person because of it. I truly believe that taking some version of the Core Curriculum is one of the best things you can do in your life, especially at this age, the start of adulthood.

"All of this being said, my greatest education was probably outside the classroom. The relationships I made changed me and formed me, and I am better for them."

### JOHN ARCINIEGAS

"Through my experience at Columbia and with New York as a whole, I learned from people from all walks of life. I was able to learn from different cultures, viewpoints and experiences that helped to challenge me and develop myself fully.

"I would like to send a big 'Congratulations!' to my classmates, and to remind them to invest in what they would like to see changed in the world around them. They are very passionate, dedicated people, and I know they have the skills to accomplish significant milestones: Congrats, Class of 2020!"



John



Abena

### ABENA ADOM-ODURO

"I've learned that community is what really matters. At the end of the day, it's the experiences that you shared with others, the lives you touched and the lives that touched you that linger. We're graduating at such a tough and uncertain time, and it may seem out of place to celebrate, but we've all come so far, and I'm so proud of us!"

### LACEY ANN STRAHM

"The unforeseeable and swift end to my senior year made me realize how precious the time I had at campus really was. As you go through the day-to-day life of being a student you accumulate these little joys of campus life — like seeing your friends on College Walk, getting your favorite sandwich at Brownies, finding the perfect seat in Butler. I understood these joys to be built-in perks of being a College student, but took for granted the ephemeral nature of their presence in my life; my abrupt departure from campus meant leaving them all behind. Ghosted, with no substitutes to take their place. As I scroll through my camera roll and watch memories emerge from my Snapchat, I am reminded of how lucky I was to have found such joys throughout my four years at Columbia."



Lacey



## The Artist's Way

Feminist sculptor Rachel Feinstein '93 gets a major museum retrospective

Last fall, the first-floor galleries at New York City's Jewish Museum were filled with tall, curving sculptures made from plywood and foam, enamel and resin. The ambitious structures were the work of artist Rachel Feinstein '93; the vast retrospective, subtitled "[Maiden, Mother, Crone](#)," was the first survey show of Feinstein's work held in a U.S. museum.

The exhibition, and its accompanying volume, *Rachel Feinstein* (Rizzoli, \$75), is a record of the decades the sculptor has spent exploring female archetypes. "Over the course of her 25-year career, Feinstein has confronted how women are described, seen and embodied," writes

Kelly Taxter, the museum's Barnett and Annalee Newman Curator of Contemporary Art, who helped guide the exhibition to completion.

Feinstein isn't wedded to a single type of material, or even to the medium of sculpture itself. "Maiden, Mother, Crone" includes video, painted mirrors, panoramic wall-paper, even a white 40-ft.-long wall relief. Feinstein has made stunning collages for *New York* magazine (*The Seven Ages of Woman*) and a castle-in-ruins runway set for Marc Jacobs's Fall 2012 show. Underlying all these variations, though, is a single theme: women and the way they're seen.

As a sculptor, Feinstein was forced to think about gender from the beginning of her career. "When I was just starting and said to someone that I was a female sculptor, they told me, 'That's really weird; that's like a dog that can walk on its hind legs,'" she said in a recent interview with *Sculpture* magazine. She herself admits to nagging doubts: "I've always thought about how being a female sculptor is not natural, in terms of the aggressiveness and the material." Feinstein is married to painter John Currin; a frequent theme in their media interviews is the gender-flipped aspect of the art they create. His is soft and gentle — stroking the canvas with a fine brush, in a boudoir-like studio — while her man-cave studio is noisy and filled with power tools.

To a large extent, Feinstein's career began at the College. A Miami doctor's daughter who had modeled as a teenager, she knew she wanted to be an artist, but had little experience with or knowledge of art history. She started out pre-med (thanks to her parents' urging), but she soon changed direction to pursue studio art, and studied with influential instructors like installation artist Judy Pfaff. She found a group of fast friends — intimates whom she still calls her "art clan" — and started exploring the funkier reaches of Downtown. Feinstein credits



CHRIS SANDERS



her time at the College with giving her something essential to her art: a sense of possibility. “I don’t know if I would be where I am today if it wasn’t for Columbia and Judy Pfaff,” she told *CCT*.

The art that Feinstein created at that time could be hard-charging and forceful, drawing energy from early-’90s, third-wave feminism. Her sculpture *Ultimate Woman*

(1993) shows a woman on all fours, with red-rimmed apertures reminiscent of gaping wounds on her back. *Someday My Prince Won’t Come*, her first performance art piece, featured Feinstein swinging inside a huge welded hoop-skirt, as red wine gradually spilled over her clothes. At a 1994 Exit Art group exhibition, *Let the Artist Live*, she

posed as a drowsing Sleeping Beauty, but her golden-haired princess was humped by a grotesque castle as she lay in bed. She met Currin around that same time.

Her “bad-ass” single life — and the artistic style that went with it — came to an end. Twenty-six years later, the two artists share a townhouse, family life and to some

degree, an artistic mindset. Importantly, Currin taught Feinstein that older European art could be an invaluable source of ideas. Feinstein’s creative process now often begins with research in her bookshelves, or at the Strand Bookstore. (“Maiden, Mother, Crone” was inspired by the book *Maids, Madonnas & Witches: Women in sculpture from prehistoric times to Picasso*, with photographs by Andreas Feininger.) The later work shown at The Jewish Museum explores female archetypes derived from examples of old European fine and decorative art, like madonnas, German woodcarvings, even Meissen porcelain figurines.

Feinstein herself, having passed the maiden stage, has embraced the role of mother to the couple’s three children. But far from dreading the approach of her “crone” years, she seems to be looking forward to a late-stage artistic flowering. In an interview on Bloomberg TV last fall, flanked by men in business attire, she is luminous and charismatic in bright lipstick and a vividly colored dress. Historically, she says, female artists like Louise Bourgeois, Georgia O’Keeffe and Agnes Martin honed their skills later in life, once the biological imperative to reproduce was gone. Women artists get “more marketable after menopause,” she says with a smile. “It seems that you just come into this strength and power as you get older.”

— Rose Kernochan BC’82

**RIGHT:** *Unicorn or “H,”* 2002. Fabric, resin, plaster, foam, wood, enamel, 40 x 73 x 31 in. In exhibition *Tropical Rodeo*, Le Consortium, Dijon, 2006.

Private collection.

**FAR RIGHT:** *Old Times*, 2005. Stained wood, 97 x 43 x 23 in.

In exhibition *Tropical Rodeo*, Le Consortium, Dijon, 2006.

Collection of Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn and Nicolas Rohatyn.







*Adam and Eve*, 2007.  
Wood, stain, hardware, 84 x 45 x 41 in.

Collection of Mima and César Reyes, San Juan.



*Fat Friend*, 2000.  
Wood, epoxy, Sculpey, plaster, enamel, gold leaf, 60 x 49 x 32 in.

Collection of Mark Fletcher and Tobias Meyer.



**FAR LEFT:** *Kasteel de Haar*, 2010. Enamel on mirror, 22 x 17 in.

Private collection, New York.

**LEFT:** *Bagatelle*, 2010. Enamel on mirror, 18 x 18 in.

Private collection.





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The Empire State Building was lit in blue and white on May 20 to mark Columbia's 266th Commencement, held earlier that day in a worldwide virtual celebration. For more on virtual Commencement, and on virtual Class Day, see [page 24](#).

PHOTO BY EILEEN BARROSO / COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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## Finding Comfort in Community

By Michael Behringer '89

I never imagined that I'd be writing my last message in *CCT* in the midst of global and national crises. These recent, unsettling months have affected each of us differently, and the impact will surely be felt for months and even years to come. As we wrestle with our many current challenges — an account of which could itself take up the entirety of this message — I see a parallel story emerging about how we are navigating our way through this moment in time. Family and community have perhaps never felt more vital. And so during this time I am especially grateful for our Columbia College family, which continues to grow closer and find new ways to offer uplift and support.

As it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic in particular, I'm awed and inspired by the Columbia alumni and faculty healthcare professionals on the front lines, as well as the many scientists and researchers working on treatments and cures. On behalf of the College community, thank you for all that you're doing. I'd also like to acknowledge those among us who are struggling with adversity of all kinds right now. Please know that your alumni family is always there for you.

Social distancing has required the College to rethink — and in many cases, reinvent — how it engages with alumni. In the long run, I think that the Columbia College Alumni Association's activities and programming will be better for it. Here, some of the great work the CCAA has been doing recently:

- **CURRENT STUDENTS:** Undergraduates are the future of the CCAA and have been a focus in recent years. In April, we offered more than 20 student/alumni events, with more to come this summer. The goal was to support students, provide information on career paths and industries, and foster a sense of community. Originally planned as live events, we pivoted to hold these virtually, which enabled us to expand the number of both alumni and student participants.
- **THE CLASS OF 2020:** We are holding workshops and speaker events, offering a 1:1 mentoring match program and developing communications aimed at helping our newest community members.
- **YOUNG ALUMNI:** At a time of great uncertainty about careers and the economy, we also will hold virtual mentoring and career-focused events for young alumni; these began in May with a presentation from an executive coach and will continue throughout the summer.
- **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT:** In a similar vein, we launched a virtual speaker series that leverages the expertise and wisdom within our community for the benefit of all alumni. We will cover



Thanks for the memories! Behringer (in denim jacket) and the financial aid letter that made it all possible.



a range of topics, including the search for a COVID-19 vaccine, the economy and job market, and mindfulness and meditation.

- **COLUMBIA REUNION:** In-person reunion was postponed (we are still looking for an alternate time); however, we offered parts of the weekend online on June 6; these included the Dean's Update and the presentation of the CCAA President's Cup, which each year honors one volunteer for contributions to their class's reunion.

As I indicated at the outset, this is my last column for *CCT*, as my term as CCAA president ended in June. How not to sound trite when explaining how meaningful the College has been for me? Words seem inadequate.

I'm always grateful for the opportunity I was given to attend Columbia. My family were immigrants and I was a first-generation student. I don't remember the day I received my acceptance letter; what I remember was when the letter about my financial aid package arrived — for that was when I knew I could attend the College.

I'm here today only because of forward-thinking financial aid policies supported by the generosity of alumni like you. And I'm delighted that those policies have only expanded and strengthened over time. I suppose that's one reason I'm driven to give back to the school and pay that debt forward. And on behalf of similarly situated students and alumni, I thank all of you who have supported this initiative. You've changed lives in many ways you may never fully appreciate.

My four years on campus were transformative and magical. That experience, and the friendships I made, continue to be an integral part of my life. And I'm lucky that through the CCAA, I've been able to extend that experience and those relationships throughout my adult life. There are many ways [to stay involved and in touch](#) with our community; I hope each of you finds the right one for you.

I look forward to seeing you soon, once we are on the other side.

**As always, ROAR!**

*Michael Behringer*





CHRISTOPHE VON HOHENBERG

## The Boss of Beautiful Books

By Jill C. Shomer

People are always asking **Charles Miers '80** what his favorite book is.

As the longtime publisher at Rizzoli New York, books are his business. Miers is responsible for the acquisition and editorial direction of all volumes published under the Rizzoli and Universe imprints, now some 175 books a year. During his 29-year tenure, Miers has dramatically expanded Rizzoli's program of books in art, design, fashion, photography and contemporary culture, while maintaining the company's roots in contemporary and historic architecture. In May, The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art honored Miers and Rizzoli with a 2020 Arthur Ross Award for Excellence in the Classical Tradition.

With such a luxe and extensive collection — even the Spring 2020 catalog features a glamorous Mert and Marcus photo of model Kendall Jenner on its cover — it's not surprising to hear that Miers can't choose a favorite. "These books are like my children," he says. "I could tell you a story about every one we've published."

Miers was a double major at the College; his studies of history and art history make him an expert storyteller. He grew up in England and spent his youth at boarding schools; he wanted something different for his college years, and New York City in the late 1970s was definitely that. "It was an adventure," he says. "The sense of physical danger was ever-present. But as a student you could block a lot of that out."

Miers was thrilled to study with a generation of notable art historians like David Rosand '59, GSAS'65, Kirk Varnedoe and Richard Brilliant. He also ran cross country and track, pacing the first Columbia cross-country team to win an Ivy League championship in 1979, and later qualifying for the Olympic Trials Marathon (in 2 hours, 16 minutes). But the best thing about Columbia for him was Avery Hall. "The most beautiful building, the most beautiful library," he says. "The opportunity to be with those books and those original materials was fantastic!" He met his wife, Christine Miers GSAS'86, at Avery while she was getting an art history Ph.D. (And when Rizzoli moved its bookstore from its longtime townhouse location on West 57th Street to NoMad in 2014, Avery was an inspiration for the design; Miers employed architect Tom Kligerman '79 to create a similar "church to books" feeling.)

The day he graduated, Miers went to work for a "tiny and idiosyncratic" publisher, George Braziller, which specialized in contemporary fiction and nonfiction. "It was too small a place to stay forever but I learned *everything* there," Miers says. "Most of all, George really taught me to love books as physical objects and understand how they were made. That has very much stayed with me." Miers next worked for five years at Abrams, then joined Rizzoli in 1990.

In those days Rizzoli was thought of as the greatest architecture publisher in the world. "If I can say where I've really made a difference, it's that we've become a major force in fashion and interior design," Miers says. "Our first fashion milestone was Tom Ford's book in 2004; it was his Gucci story. And around the same time, fashion designers embraced 'The Book' in the same way that architects did — if you went into any architecture office in those days there was a large library. Fashion designers embraced books as something permanent in a very ephemeral world, which fashion very much is."

He continues, "After the financial crash of 2008, interior design became especially strong for us, somewhat counterintuitively. I think to some extent people were turning inward and thinking about their homes, and that will happen again now. People will also embrace 'artisanal' even harder," he says.

On deck for Rizzoli this fall is a book by model Lily Cole, *Who Cares Wins*, about issues of sustainability and climate change, how young people should think about those things and what values they should consider. Like Miers, Cole is an art historian by training, from Cambridge. "She has a lot of credibility for activism, and that's a book we think will have resonance," Miers says. "It's subtitled *Reasons for Optimism in a Changing World* — I mean, come on."



Book publishing may have diminished over the years as digital media has become more prevalent, but Miers isn't worried. "I believe that the more digital we've become, the more people value a certain level of craftsmanship," he says. "People won't look to books for news or resources or information in the same way, but they'll look to them for a certain type of gravitas, for a curated quality, for permanence. I think the future of the book is strong. Books like ours will become

more bespoke, more expensive, more limited in their availability, and I think that will suit our corner of the industry."

As for his favorite part of his job? "I'm lucky to spend a lot of time with some of the world's most creative people," he says. "A book is really meaningful for them, it's a *moment*. Working with these authors is like having a special window into a period of time with someone who's a hero of yours. It's unbeatable."

## Activist Annie Tan '11 Is Speaking Up for Asian Americans

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

Activist, storyteller and special education teacher **Annie Tan '11** knows how to make her voice heard, and how to inspire others to speak up. Most recently, this past May, Tan appeared on PBS's five-part documentary [Asian Americans](#), speaking both about her work as a teacher and her family's role at the center of the modern push for Asian-American visibility and civil rights in the United States.

Tan's journey to the national stage has been years in the making. When she was 13, she learned about a tragedy that had shaken her family to the core. In 1982, Tan's cousin Vincent Chin was beaten to death by two Detroit autoworkers; the killers, who blamed the Japanese auto industry for declining U.S. auto sales, mistook Chin for being Japanese. The killers received only three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine. Chin's mother, Tan's great-aunt Lily Chin, spent the years after his death campaigning for hate crime legislation; she returned to China in 1987 after facing discrimination.

Tan has since taken up the family's mantle, speaking about the case in various mediums. "[When] you hear about Vincent Chin in Asian-American studies textbooks," she says, "you have a different reaction than when I'm in front of you telling you that my family had to fight that case for years and years, and lost over and over, to the point where my great auntie moved to China. It's just very different to see it from my vantage point."

In addition to [Asian Americans](#), Tan has been featured on [The Moth Radio Hour](#) and has embraced storytelling as a way to communicate issues relating to Asian-American activism and experiences. She gave the keynote at the Teaching Social Activism conference at the Museum of the City of New York in May 2019 and has performed at live storytelling events around New York City. She also volunteers with CAAAV (Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence), an NYC-based organization that empowers and advocates for low-income Asian immigrants and refugees, and is involved in the United Federation of Teachers, the union that represents teachers who work in New York City public schools.

Tan, who grew up in Manhattan's Chinatown, majored in urban studies at the College, while simultaneously earning her teaching license through Barnard. After graduation she moved to Chicago and began teaching in the majority Latinx Little Village neighborhood. She campaigned for teachers' rights for two years as co-chair of the Special Education Committee of the Chicago Teachers



CINDY TRINH

Union. "We fought against hundreds of positions being cut illegally in Chicago public schools, and formed a special education task force, which is still active," she says.

In 2016, Tan moved back to New York and sought out Brooklyn's diverse Sunset Park neighborhood in order to teach its large number of Chinese and Latinx students. "I wanted to continue teaching bicultural students who had questions like, 'What do I do when my mom and dad need me to translate and put this burden on me?' — because I went through that," she says. "It's my job as a teacher to know where they came from and to give them some space to be kids. It's a blessing; every day I see their confidence and motivation grow."

Tan says her activism and teaching are inexorably linked: "Had I not been a teacher first, I don't think I would have learned these lessons very well. I realized I have to model what I want my students to be. In order for my students to be in a better world and to be humans that will make this world better, I also have to be better. And that means I have to fight for them."



# bookshelf

## A Dance Pioneer Finally Gets His Due

By Jill C. Shomer

**T**ed Shawn, often called the “Father of American Dance,” was so sure about his place in cultural history that before his death in 1972, he drafted a letter to future biographers listing what topics should be written about him and the order in which they should be written. But none of those books ever came. Until now.

In *Ted Shawn: His Life, Writings, and Dances* (Oxford University Press, \$39.95), **Paul A. Scolieri '95**, chair and professor of dance at Barnard, offers the first scholarly account of Shawn's pioneering role in American modern dance and reveals the untold story of Shawn's homosexuality, his choreographic vision and his impact on society.

Between 1915 and 1940, Shawn transformed dance from popular entertainment into a theatrical art, and in the process, made dancing an acceptable profession for men. With his wife and dance partner, Ruth St. Denis, he founded Denishawn, the first modern dance company and school in the United States. (Martha Graham was a protégée, and went on to become a legendary dancer and choreographer in her own right.) Shawn directed the first all-male dance company, Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, and was also the founder of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the internationally known performance venue and school in Becket, Mass.

Scolieri spent 10 years researching Shawn for this biography. “His is one of the best-documented lives of the 20th century,” Scolieri says. “He maintained records from childhood — he had a strong sense that his life would be extraordinary.”

The importance and influence of Ted Shawn was imprinted on Scolieri's life early. The Long Island native discovered a passion for dance in childhood, and studied

performing arts at his Catholic high school while also training as a student at the Martha Graham School in Manhattan. “I would go to school and then take the train into the city,” Scolieri says.

When it was time for college, he wanted to carry on his training but not at a conservatory; at Columbia, he was among the first stu-

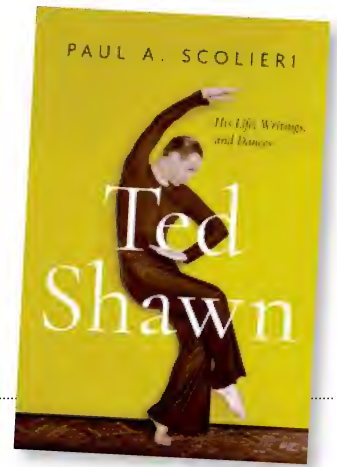
dents (and the first man) to major in dance. His training at Martha Graham continued alongside his studies in the Core Curriculum: “I was dancing Graham pieces inspired by Greek myth at the same time I was also in Lit Hum, and learning Graham's choreography for *The Rite of Spring* while studying Stravinsky's score in Music Hum,” he recalls. “It all felt fully integrated.”

A Global Core course in pre-Colombian art set Scolieri on the path to writing his first book, *Dancing the New World: Aztecs, Spaniards, and the Choreography of Conquest* (2013). “I got so excited by the art, the story of conquest and the imagery that it became my doctoral dissertation,” he says. It also brought him back to the Columbia community: In 2000, Scolieri was hired to teach a class in Latin American and Caribbean dance at Barnard. He taught for a few years as an adjunct before becoming a full-time professor in 2003.

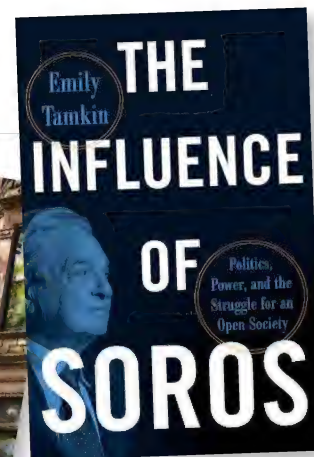
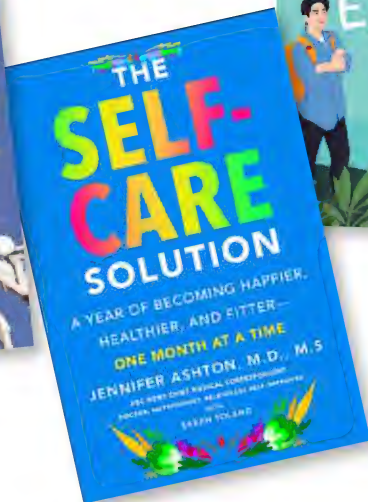
Scolieri says that though everyone in the dance world knows of Shawn, a lot of the details weren't clear. “People wondered, ‘He was married to a woman, but was he gay?’ He was one of those guys who kept the lock on the closet. And in order for him to have prestige and stature and visibility, he engaged in a lot of internalized and externalized homophobia.” After the Stonewall uprising in 1969, Shawn was ready to tell a more authentic story of his life, and was in the interview process with one of his former students when he had a heart attack. Scolieri was able to use the seven days of recorded conversations in his writing.

“I tried to tell his story in a way that he would have told it had he been able to be honest, and with the vantage of 50 years to understand where he fit into the larger puzzle of American cultural life,” Scolieri says. “Shawn was born into a world with no concept of homosexuality, modernism or dance for men. His life was about braiding these emerging ideas together. Through my research I was able to better understand the social vision he had and the sacrifices he made.”

Scolieri gets reflective when he considers the realities of Shawn's life versus the life he shares with his husband, Lavinell Savu '94, and their three daughters. “There's not a moment that I don't think that my life and my career are everything that Shawn desired,” he says. “The part of the world I get to enjoy is in large measure owed to what Ted Shawn bodied forth.”







**Troubleshooter: J.K. Choy, From Pirate's Son to Diplomat and Banker** by Dr. Daniel Choy '44. Choy's biography of his father, Jun Ke Choy CC 1915, who left Hawaii in 1911 and rose to a top government post in China before finding success in the United States as a banker and community advocate (Independently published, \$14.99).

**Smack in the Middle: My Turbulent Time Treating Heroin Addicts at Odyssey House** by Gibbs Williams '59. Psychotherapist Williams describes his work treating addicts in a Manhattan therapeutic community over 17 months in the late 1960s (History Publishing Co., \$19.95).

**Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season** by Roger Pasquier '69. The first book devoted to the ecology and behavior of birds during cold weather; Pasquier explores how winter affects birds' lives throughout the year (Princeton University Press, \$29.95).

**Volunteer: Adventures in Humanism** by Dr. Daniel Albert '70. In addition to practicing medicine in academic institutions, Albert made it his life's work to volunteer in disenfranchised areas around the world (Austin Macauley Publishers, \$35.95).

**Returning from Afar: A Memoir** by Benson Bobrick '71. This dramatic farewell work from the author *The New York Times* described as "perhaps the most interesting American historian writing today" is part memoir, part religious autobiography (Stillwater Books, \$16.95).

**Phebe's War: A Revolutionary War Tale** by Michael Coudreaux '85. Despite constant threat from the British armies, a young girl living in the Hudson Highlands plays a critical role in assisting the Revolutionary War effort (Hellgate Press, \$12.95).

**The Self-Care Solution: A Year of Becoming Happier, Healthier and Fitter — One Month at a Time** by Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91. Ashton, chief medical correspondent for *ABC News* and an ob-gyn in private practice, shares a yearlong plan to improve your physical and emotional health (William Morrow, \$26.99).

**PACE** by K.M. Halpern '91. Halpern's third work of fiction, about a mysterious and deadly "front" origi-

nating from Scotland, is described as "a pitch-black global thriller that is nevertheless supremely intimate" (Epsilon Books, \$29.99).

**The Financial Ecosystem: The Role of Finance in Achieving Sustainability** by Satyajit Bose '94, Guo Dong and Anne Simpson. Bose, an associate professor at the School of Professional Studies, and his co-authors describe how corporate functioning could be made compatible with human welfare (Palgrave Macmillan, \$119.99).

**The Perfect Escape** by Suzanne Park '97. In Park's debut YA rom-com, a lovable hero and his colleague at a zombie-themed escape room compete in a survivalist competition for a huge cash prize (Sourcebooks Fire, \$10.99).

**The Pearls** by Will Heinrich '99. Heinrich, an art critic for *The New York Times*, considers painting, love, Jewish identity and more in this novel about a raucous 1920s love triangle that crosses the country from New York City to Sheridan, Wyo. (Elective Affinity, \$25).

**Putting Joy into Practice: Seven Ways to Lift Your Spirit from the Early Church** by Phoebe Farag Mikhail '00. The author explains how to experience joy through seven spiritual practices, including giving thanks, hospitality and praise (Paraclete Press, \$16.99).

**Bricks & Brownstone: The New York Row House** by Patrick Ciccone '03, Charles Lockwood and Jonathan D. Taylor. This beautifully illustrated reissued volume, first published in 1972, examines the varied architectural styles of the New York City brownstone (Rizzoli, \$176).

**The Power of Human: How Our Shared Humanity Can Help Us Create a Better World** by Adam Waytz '03. Social psychologist Waytz describes how to "rehumanize" our technology-filled lives by reconnecting with our natural, instinctive powers (W.W. Norton & Co., \$26.95).

**Financializing Poverty: Labor and Risk in Indian Microfinance** by Sobini Kar '04. Kar examines how the business of giving small loans to poor borrowers has allowed financial institutions in Kolkata, India, to capitalize on the poverty of its residents (Stanford University Press, \$90).

**The Influence of Soros: Politics, Power and the Struggle for Open Society** by Emily Tamkin '12. Tamkin, an editor at the *New Statesman*, considers the influence of hedge fund tycoon George Soros and uncovers the truth about the conspiracies that surround him (Harper, \$28.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_bookshelf](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)





## Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo and caption information on our photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Congratulations!



ADAM SUE



PEPPER MEDIA CAMBODIA



ASIA PIMENTEL PHOTOGRAPHY



ZEV FISHER PHOTOGRAPHY



STEVE STEINHARDT



**1.** Aaron Zhu SEAS'14 and Samantha Hing '14 were married on March 31, 2019, in Jersey City.

**2.** On January 5, Nettra Pan '12 and Luc Jodet (seated, center) celebrated their marriage with a Khmer wedding ceremony and dinner reception attended by 170 friends and family members in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Guests, which included Columbia and Barnard alumni, can be seen throwing flowers to mark the end of a Khmer wedding rite.

**3.** Johanna Lee (née Miele) '12 married Edward Lee '12 on July 7, 2019, at The Liberty Warehouse in Brooklyn, N.Y. Left to right: Chris Guerrero SEAS'09, Patricia Rojas '12, Elizabeth Angeles '13, Herbert "Chip" Thornhill '12, Michael Barrientos SEAS'12, Kendra Mendez '12, Christina Ortiz '12, the bride, the groom, Nirmal Ilyas '13, Ryan Mulvey SEAS'12, Jenieve Guevarra-Fernandez '12, Amin Guevarra-Fernandez '11 and Eric Ellis SEAS'12.

**4.** Ezra Wyschogrod '17 and Talia Wyschogrod (née Rubin) '18 were married on November 17 in Boston. More than 75 Columbia alumni were in attendance, with the oldest graduate representing the Class of 1961 and the youngest representing the Class of 2022!

**5.** Rob Trump '09 and Adrienne Ho BC'09 were married at The Langham Huntington in Pasadena, Calif., on September 15, 2018. Many College alumni were in attendance. Back row, left to right: Henry Klementowicz SEAS'09, Leslie Galindo BC'07, Natasha Dhillon BC'11, Whitaker Cohen BC'09, Sam Roberts '08, Rachel Lowdermilk BC'08, Alex Evans BC'09, James Williams '08, Maggie Marron BC'09, Patrick Yan, Max Friedman '09, Brendan Ballou-Kelley '09 and Blair Bigelow; middle row, left to right: Allie Rosenblum, Chris Jo '09, Graham Moore '03, Crystal Ho BC'03, the groom, the bride, Claire Noonan BC'09, Emma Rotenberg BC'09, Sarah Besnoff BC'09 and Jean Laschever; and front row, left to right: Leora Kelman '09, Shira Burton '09, Eric Rosenblum '09, Alex Statman '09 and Tom Keenan '07.

**6.** Aurélie and Jonah Van Bourg '07 were married in May 2019 in Antibes, France.



# classnotes



SCOTT RUDD

The campus  
patiently awaits  
the return  
of students  
and faculty.

## 1950

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

No news this quarter. Classmates would enjoy hearing from you! Please send a note to *CCT* by writing to the address above.

## 1951

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

**Ernest H. von Nardroff** GSAS'66 shares a thought that some of you might also have: "A late-in-the-game, unrealistic but ardent wish:

to sit in on the Core. In my present condition, I probably couldn't do it justice, but it would be worth a try!"

**Leonard A. Stoeher** sent updates in late March for himself as well as several other early-'50s alumni: "Greetings from the beautiful rural Blue Ridge area of Virginia, where there are still no reported cases of coronavirus in Greene County.

**"W. Fred Kinsey III** GSAS'53: Fred, a professor emeritus of archaeology at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., and his wife, Carol, recently moved to an assisted living facility in Lancaster. Fred was my junior year roommate at the Phi Kappa Psi house on West 113th Street.

"The following aged gentlemen are all members of the NROTC unit who received their Navy officer commis-

sions at the Columbia graduation ceremonies on June 7, 1951:

**"Richard C. Boyle:** Dick is a retired M.D. living in Lake City, Pa., with his wife, Dorothy.

**"Edwin G. Croswell '50,** SIPA'56: Ed and his wife, Erna (a graduate of St. Luke's School of Nursing), live in an assisted living facility in Murrysville, Pa. After his required service in the Navy, Ed served many years in the State Department's Foreign Service and other federal government organizations.

**"Alfred B. Harbage Jr.** SEAS'55: Al retired from a career with the Navy's David Taylor Model Basin facility in Annapolis, Md. He and his wife now live in Severna Park, Md.

**"Merritt N. Rhoad Jr.:** Merritt, after Navy service in destroyers,





enjoyed a long career with IBM. He has recently given up his great love of sailing due to balance problems resulting from idiopathic peripheral neuropathy, an affliction that also bothers me. He lives in Glenside, Pa.

"On a sadder note, two of our NROTC shipmates passed away in 2019. Philip M. Bergovoy '50, an active member of the NROTC Class of 1951, died in Sarasota, Fla., on February 22, 2019. [Editor's note: See [Spring 2020, Class of 1950 Class Notes](#).] John A. Handley, one of the few fighter pilots (perhaps the only) in our NROTC class, died in Santa Barbara, Calif., on October 21, 2019.

"With the passing of Phil and John, we are now left with only five 1951 NROTCs. As many of my contemporaries like to say, 'Getting old is not for sissies.' All of us survivors have an assortment of physical (I should emphasize, not mental) problems. My wife, Jan, and I still play at least one afternoon of bridge each month. Our opponents are inspirational — the woman is 93 and her husband will be 100 on Veterans Day. He is a survivor of many missions as a B-17 pilot over Germany in WWII.

"My best wishes to all of the other 1951 survivors. I hope to update you in future issues of *CCT*."

Share your news with classmates by sending a note to *CCT* at the email address at the top of the column.

## 1952

*Columbia College Today*  
cct@columbia.edu

**Ted Robinson** writes: "My wife and I now spend our time either in New York City or Naples, Fla., depending on the weather. We also travel a good bit and get to Europe for a few

weeks (now usually Paris) each year. Still great fun, and I realize that we are quite lucky.

"I had practiced medicine as a radiologist until 2007, when I finally retired. Retirement certainly has been fun, although I recently have had the urge to do more.

"I have fortunately remained in good health and only recently stopped playing doubles tennis, when I felt that my reflexes were a bit too slow. So now I sleep later and read more.

"When I was last in New York I took the subway uptown to the Columbia campus. In many ways it looked as if it were not the campus I once knew. Of course, the stores, bars and restaurants I knew are no longer there, and the Lions Den is gone. The students also seemed different from what I remember we were. Indeed, as Thomas Wolfe pointed out, you can never go home again. But we can all enjoy what we have now. Best wishes to all."

From **John Benfield**: "I am writing during pervasive anxiety about COVID-19. My grandson, Cody Benfield '21, has returned home from his junior year in Paris. *Columbia College Today's* Spring 2020 issue, with a cover that celebrates '100 Years of the Core,' just arrived. Inside is the [obituary of Columbia's admired president emeritus Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55](#), and Class Notes from **John Laszlo** and **Arthur Lyons**. Sovern, Laszlo, Lyons and I have much background in common. All this prompts the following thoughts about New York and Columbia.

"New York began for me as a 7-year-old Austrian refugee in Washington Heights in July 1938. My parents had the courage to leave immediately after the Anschluss for a purported vacation, never to return. Nine months later my father, an ophthalmologist, was licensed to practice medicine in New York, having passed the licensing examination in a language new to him, 14 years after his medical school graduation. I started P.S. 173, and made it to Bronx Science, but only after overcoming a hurdle. What was it?

"I fell three weeks short of completing the ninth grade. My father had volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. My mother and I accompanied him to Camp White in Oregon. Soon he was deployed to India, and my mother and I

### COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| BC    | Barnard College   |
| BUS   | Columbia Business School                                    |
| CP    | Pharmaceutical Sciences                                     |
| DM    | College of Dental Medicine                                  |
| GS    | School of General Studies                                   |
| GSAPP | Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  |
| GSAS  | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences                        |
| HN    | Institute of Human Nutrition                                |
| JRN   | Graduate School of Journalism                               |
| JTS   | Jewish Theological Seminary                                 |
| LAW   | Columbia Law School   |
| LS    | Library Service   |
| NRS   | School of Nursing   |
| PH    | Mailman School of Public Health                             |
| PS    | College of Physicians and Surgeons                          |
| SEAS  | The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science |
| SIPA  | School of International and Public Affairs                  |
| SOA   | School of the Arts  |
| SPS   | School of Professional Studies                              |
| SW    | School of Social Work                                       |
| TC    | Teachers College  |
| UTS   | Union Theological Seminary                                  |

returned to New York. My father died in India. The enrollment people at Science refused to honor my success with the entrance examination. Apologetic about her English (which was excellent), my mother confronted Dr. Morris Meister, Science's still celebrated, founding principal. She convinced him that I deserved to be admitted to Science.

"Columbia began for me in 1948, when Dwight D. Eisenhower's Columbia presidency started. Subway fares increased from 5 to 10 cents, and I commuted from 86th Street to 116th Street. Columbia College dress code was a shirt and tie. I wore my freshman beanie and corduroy jacket on the subway, and fashionable students who lived in the dormitories wore blue blazers and white buck shoes. Core classes were taught by the likes of Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920, one of my all-time heroes. He almost always had a twinkle in his eye, and he enjoyed engaging about 15 of us in intellectual banter. It seemed as if teaching freshmen in Contemporary Civilization was an exciting experience for him. When I referred to *Don Quixote* with my best Spanish accent, Professor Van Doren playfully asked, 'Are you talking English or Spanish? If you are talking English, pronounce his name in English.' His point was small and argu-

able, but he would have welcomed any challenge I might have offered, and I felt free to say anything. He became my role model for teaching, and when the UCLA Class of 1971 chose me as the medical school's outstanding teacher, Professor Van Doren shared that honor in my mind.

"So, why do I still love New York 69 years after leaving it? It is a haven that provides opportunity for refugees and internationals seeking a better life. It welcomed my family, and provided me with memories that I treasure.

"Why do I feel connected to Sovern, Laszlo and Lyons? If memory serves me correctly, Laszlo is also a refugee, and that is a bond between us. Sovern, Laszlo and I are Science and Columbia graduates. Laszlo, Lyons and I chose academic medicine as careers that fulfilled each of us professionally. In addition, I met Lyons before we started at Columbia when he and I were each awarded a scholarship for war orphans from the Maud E. Warwick Fund.

"I did not know Sovern personally, but his educational roots at Science were like mine, and both of us exercised the professional option at Columbia. That meant that we started in our professional schools after three years in the College, and we received College degrees after

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Arthur E. Lyons '52 (far right) and John R. Benfield '52 (center) receiving a scholarship for war orphans from the Maud E. Warwick Fund in 1948.

completion of the first year of professional school. Each of us wished we had not hurried past our senior year.

"What do I hear from Cody about Columbia College today? He loves it and he is getting a first-class education. But, his classes in the Core were taught by talented and well-selected graduate students. Some of them will become great professors. However, can they offer students what Professor Van Doren gave to me, and Gilbert Highet and Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920 offered to Laszlo? I think rarely, if ever. They lack the maturity and experience of the professors who taught us. Therefore, still an idealist at 88, I am hopeful that Columbia's academic leadership will overcome fiscal pressures of modern academia and that future College students will be taught by professors!"

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! Please send a note to *CCT* by writing to the email address at the top of the column.

## 1953

**Lew Robins**  
lewrobins@aol.com

**Larry Harte** responded to a Class Note in the Summer 2019 issue. He writes: "Allan Jackman PS'57's story of growing up in Brooklyn brings back memories of my childhood as a

Dodgers fan in Brooklyn. I lived two blocks from the Dodgers's stadium, Ebbets Field. From my four-story walkup, I could see center field and Duke Snider playing there.

"The first year that my dad took me to a game was 1937. Would you believe it, the Dodgers were wearing green instead of Dodger blue for the first and only year in their history? I am not sure what the reason was for that one year. If it was to change their luck, it did not work.

"Since I lived so close to Ebbets Field, I had the opportunity to see more than 100 games. I also had the opportunity to get autographs from the 1941 pennant-winning Dodgers through the 1955 world-champion Dodgers that defeated the Yankees. I think the 1941 Dodgers were one of the best teams that never won a world championship.

"I used to work at the ballpark during the summers, where I met many of the players from opposite teams. I had autographs from Stan Musial, Ralph Kiner, Warren Spahn, Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and others. I had accumulated a large scrap book of autographs. Unfortunately, my mother, bless her soul, decided to throw out all my memorabilia when I went to Columbia. I guess she felt that I had to go out into the world and make a real living!

"I am working on a photo book dating from the 1941 Brooklyn Dodgers to the present Los Angeles Dodgers. It

would be my third book about Brooklyn. The other two were *Brooklyn—ese Proverbs & Cartoons* and *Journey with Grandchildren: A Life Story*.

"I see **Joe Aaron** and his lovely wife, Jane, at our Saint Barnabas Medical Center meetings in Livingston, N.J.

"At one event, when I was chair of the Public Health Council, I spent some time with then-President George H.W. Bush, who was a Texas fan. He jokingly said, 'How can you still be a Dodgers fan when they left Brooklyn?' I came back with respect and said 'Mr. President, as you love our country, I love my country and the Dodgers of my youth.' Bush put his arm around me and gave me the biggest hug. We both had a tear in our eye.

"Kathy and I have visited more than 110 countries as National Geographic Travelers. However, these days — aside from hobbies in bridge, watercolor and glass blowing, and spending a little time in my orthodontic practice — we usually limit our travel to visiting our grandchildren."

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
brecherservices@aol.com

As I prepare to submit these Class Notes in April — a quarter of a year before publication in *CCT*'s Summer 2020 issue — the coronavirus pandemic is devastating the global landscape politically, medically, socially, humanly, and rationally. It is my hope that the virus is peaking and will soon begin to plateau.

Classmates, I pray that when you read these notes we will all be looking back to April of this year as a time of still-winter of our discontent, an historical event when America truly "did not know what we did not know" — and that we survived. However, I share with you now the sad news that **Saul Turteltaub** LAW'57 (class president in our senior year) and **Howard Falberg** BUS'56 (class president in our freshman year) left us earlier this year. Both had been in failing health, and neither's death had any connection to the pandemic.

Howard was born on December 13, 1932, and grew up in the Bronx, where we would be classmates at Bronx Science. After earning an

M.B.A., while in the Army stationed in San Francisco, Howard met his soon-to-be wife, Carol May (who predeceased him 15 years ago), who had volunteered to help serve a Sunday bagel brunch for soldiers at a local synagogue. They lived primarily in California and Connecticut, and raised five children — Lisa, Debby, Vicki, Jeff, and Stephen — while Howard moved up the corporate ladder in the retail world, concluding his career at May Co. as EVP for human resources worldwide. Howard died near La Jolla, Calif., on February 24, 2020.

Before and during retirement, he and Carol devoted much time to breeding, showing and judging Golden Retrievers, which began with the purchase of a purebred puppy named Cleo, who won a medal at a puppy match a week later. Through the years they showed and bred more than 30 champions. Howard became a dog show judge, founded the Greater St. Louis Golden Retriever Club, and became president of the National Golden Retriever Club and the Canine Health Foundation.

In response to my request for happy memories, Howard's widow, Debby Davis, wrote, "It's difficult to write this, but I hope my sharing these memories will help me and Howard's friends in keeping his memories alive. We met through a mutual friend in 2009, after our spouses had passed away. She was a neighbor of Howard's and had one of his Golden Retrievers. I have a wedding business and knew her through that, as she is a wedding planner. She kept 'nudging' me with stories of what a wonderful guy he was. I kept saying, 'I'm not ready!' Finally, after about a year, we had our first date. And we never looked back. It had been four years for Howard and three years for me since our spouses passed away.

"We had so many things in common, like a love of music and the arts in general. And as a singer I was thrilled to find out Howard played the piano. We had many sing-alongs in the 10 years we were married. And Howard enjoyed going to my concerts and singing with me in Yiddish. I had never had a dog, so marrying into four Golden Retrievers was wonderful for me! I knew Howard was serious about me when, on one of our dates, he presented





On March 4, Adela Raz, ambassador and permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations, was the speaker at the Columbia University Club Foundation's Ambassador Series. Left to right: James Gerkis '80, David Filosa '82, Toni Coffee BC'56, Bernd Brecher '54, Arthur Delmhorst '60, Raz and Ann Nicol of the United Nations Association of New York.

me with the American Kennel Club standards book about goldens! 'This guy's not fooling around,' I thought.

"We enjoyed going to dog shows together where he was judging. What an education it's been. Shortly after our marriage, Howard was asked to judge in China. So, we made that trip our honeymoon. We always got a laugh from people when we told them that we were 'old newlyweds.' It's almost 11 years since our first date and I cherish every moment. Columbia meant so much to him.

"And meeting so many of you at a reunion was a highlight for me because it allowed me to feel that I'd known him for more years than I really did."

**Richard Bernstein SEAS'55** shares the following anecdote: "Howie was the first '54 classmate I encountered. Before classes began in August 1950, I couldn't reach the top button in an apartment elevator. In walked Howie, who was going to the same floor. He bent over and pushed the button. We then visited the same beer party."

**Saul Turteltaub LAW'57**, whose life and loves (exclusively Shirley, whom he married in 1960) in Hollywood, and dedication to '54 classmates and Columbia never flagged, died in Beverly Hills on April 9, 2020. His last — and

lasting — service to our Class of Destiny was as a member of our 65th Reunion Committee last year and as speaker/entertainer/stand-up comedian at our anniversary banquet in Butler Library in June last year. Saul was a regular contributor to this column, and when he limited funny by choice he was always on the mark with human comedy and commentary about segregation or injustice or issues that might help heal the world. Did I mention he was a speaker at every reunion? He was our "yes man," he never said "no" to any request from our class.

Saul was born on May 13, 1932, raised in Englewood, N.J., and never looked back as he conquered America as entertainer, director, producer, writer, and social commentator. When several years and deans ago he made a substantial gift to the Columbia College Fund and the acknowledgement letter from the dean misspelled his name, he felt slighted and insulted and asked me what he should do to correct this mistake; I suggested capital punishment or similar legal action (after all, Saul was a Law School grad). He came up with a better response, and sent the dean a letter pointing out that his gift represented \$1,000 for every letter in his surname and that he expected better attention by

the College to that end. *Mea culpa* with style!

*Variety*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and other entertainment media reported on the passing of our Saul; the *Reporter* reminding us in its obituary that "during his 50-year career, Turteltaub left his fingerprints on 23 sitcoms. He wrote for and produced such iconic 1960s and '70s shows as *The Carol Burnett Show*, *Sanford and Son*, and *That Girl*. He earned back-to-back Emmy nominations in 1964 and 1965 as part of the writing team for the TV series *That Was the Week That Was* and was again nominated in 1968 for *The Carol Burnett Show*."

Shirley survives him, as do their sons, Adam (Rhea) and Jon (Amy); grandsons, Ross, Max, Jack, and Daniel; granddaughter, Arabella; and sister, Helena. Saul's family says, "He was beloved and respected by his entire community for his generosity, endless philanthropy, the giving of his time, his work with civil rights, his role as a teacher to underprivileged or emerging writers, helping war veterans learning to write, and his devotion to endless Jewish charities." [Editor's note: See "[Obituaries](#)."] Howard and Saul, thank you!

**Bruce King** sent regards to all from Paris before the global virus lockdown and said his classmate constant contacts have been primarily with **David Bardin LAW'56** and **Joel Gerstl GSAS'55**, and that "my life seems unchanging. My wife, Adele, died in November 2018 of lung cancer, and I remain mostly housebound in Paris, where I am likely to stay."

He continues, "I have medical coverage, housing, friends, and so on here, and nothing to return to the United States for — no close family, no property. I still get books to review and I can be found in most issues of *The Journal of Postcolonial Writing*. I still get requests to use my name as editorial board member and/or consultant, but at 87 I feel like that part of my life is mostly over; surviving from day to day, reading *The New York Times* International Edition, *The New Yorker*, and the *Times's* Literary Supplement, doing my income tax return myself, and other basic activities is enough. I go to concerts, and try to follow the jazz scene and contemporary dance groups, but can no longer tell you which are the best restaurants in Paris."

**Larry Gartner** wrote during the plague wishing us all "well during this difficult time. We are doing OK here in rural San Diego County. Except for trips to our daughter's house a mile away, we stay on the ranch and do pretty much everything we always do: gardening, woodworking, and email, interspersed with walks on the trail. Our daughter, a surgeon, feels that we should not be out and about, so she does all of our shopping; very convenient and we avoid the long lines that are outside every store. I finished planting our large vegetable garden last week ... and the citrus crop is just coming ripe, as well. What Carol and I miss are the concerts, theater and restaurants, and visits with friends. One successful compensation is that we now do a weekly group meditation session and tea over Zoom."

Larry suspects that life after COVID-19 is going to be quite different, but doesn't yet know quite how. (Spoiler alert: meditation, Zoom booms, and vegan meals?)

Classmates, let's hope we'll actually be able to see each other after you receive this issue of *CCT*. Please send me your comments, updates, and corrections, as always. We have a lot on our agendas as we plan for the post-pandemic era, which may be a long one, but let's hope the world, all of us, have learned something to guide us through the next global dilemma. As before, write, call, email ... keep in touch, stay well, remember to use all we've learned before, at, and after Columbia so we can help cure the world. With thanks and luv, Bernd. Excelsior!

## 1955

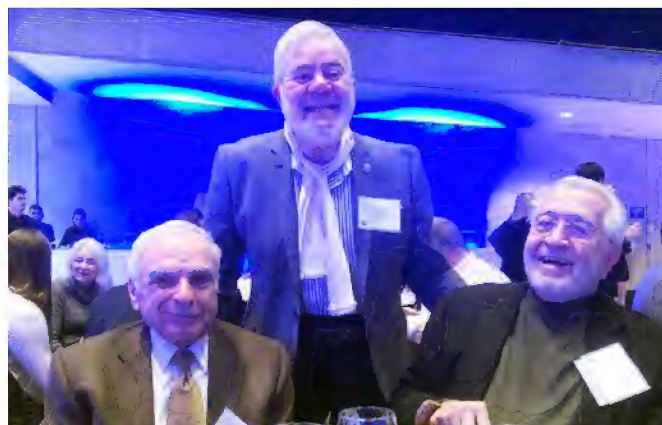
**Gerald Sherwin**  
gs481@juno.com

I have the sad duty to report that Commencement and Class Day were held virtually, with a pledge from the College to hold an in-person Class Day ceremony down the road when circumstances allow. The Class of 1955's reunion has been postponed, as well, though a complementary "virtual" reunion with a smaller program was held in early June. You might have already heard about these changes. All are due to the coronavirus sweeping the country.





Several members of the Class of 1956 met up in January for a luncheon at Faculty House. Seated, left to right: Peter Klein, Bob Touloukian and Ralph Kaslick; and standing, left to right: Ken Swimm, Bob Sirotty, Harry Schwartz and Alan Broadwin.



Several Class of 1956 members attended the Dean's Scholarship Reception in February, meeting with the student recipients of the class's three scholarships. Left to right: Ralph Kaslick, Ron Kapon and Socrates Nicholas.

A key event involving the class is that our scholarship went to Anne Wood '23, who is from Oregon.

A class dinner was hosted by **Bill Epstein**. Among the attendees were **Elliot Gross, Don Laufer, Allen Hyman, Herb Cohen and Alfred Gollomp**. We also heard from **Ralph Wagner, Bob Bernot and Dick Kuhn**.

We are sad to report the passing of **Bob Kushner** in 2019 and send our condolences to his family.

Love to all! Everywhere!

## 1956

**Robert Sirotty**  
rrs76@columbia.edu

Our class had a busy few months. In February, **Ron Kapon, Ralph Kaslick and Socrates Nicholas** represented us at the annual Dean's Scholarship Reception, meeting with the student recipients of the three scholarships tendered by the Class of 1956.



The Florida contingent of the Class of 1956 enjoyed lunch together in February. Seated, left to right: David Goler, Don Roth, Stan Manne SEAS'56, Bob Sirotty and Dan Link; and standing, left to right: Barry Truffelman, Lee Seidler, Mike Spett, Burt Sultan, Murray Eskenazi, Steve Easton, Werner Barth, Larry Cohn, Martin Mayer and Nicholas Coch.

In January, we met at Faculty House on campus for lunch with **Eric Shea**, senior director of alumni relations, and **Jennifer Alpert**, our Columbia College Fund class representative, to begin planning for our 65th reunion — happening in less than a year from when you are reading this. Plan on it. We reviewed what we did four years ago. Anyone who has a project or interest that he would like to present, please let us know. Reunion went over very well in 2016. Present at the lunch were **Peter Klein, Bob Touloukian, Ralph Kaslick, Ken Swimm, Harry Schwartz, Alan Broadwin** and me.

Also in February, 15 of us met for lunch in Florida: **David Goler, Don Roth, Stan Manne SEAS'56, Dan Link, Barry Truffelman, Lee Seidler, Mike Spett, Burt Sultan, Murray Eskenazi, Steve Easton, Werner Barth, Martin Mayer, Nicholas Coch, Larry Cohn** and me. We had a wonderful afternoon, and are beginning to think about next year. Larry offered to take on a project of arranging luncheons in Northern California (yes, he was in Florida), and we urge others in different areas to do the same.

**Bob Green** writes from Greensboro, N.C., that he looks forward to next year.

**Len Wolfe** and his wife, Ruth, have moved from New Haven, Conn., to the Harrisburg, Pa., area. He is looking forward to our 65th reunion.

**Bob Touloukian** is emeritus at Yale after retiring from the clinical academic practice of pediatric

surgery, maintaining an office and participating in conferences.

I read about **Matthew Stander's** death in *The New York Times*. Matt went to UVA Law School. He was a prize-winning breeder of Bloodhounds, Skye Terriers and Airedale Terriers, and the co-founder of the weekly magazine *Dog News*. Matt passed away while on vacation in Nairobi, Kenya.

Keep the notes coming. And, as a suggestion, if you want to start up regional luncheon meetings, let me know and I will connect you with the Alumni Office for resources on how to do so — that is, after this pandemic has passed.

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
hdlleditor@aol.com

From **Mac Gimse**: "On February 7, the St. Olaf Choir sang a concert in Carnegie Hall that featured one of my poetry pieces, *On Horizon's Brim*, set to music by composer Ralph M. Johnson. He and I were there for the premiere.

"The poetry was written for a sculpture, *Striving for Peace on Horizon's Brim*, completed last fall at a steel manufacturing plant, TMCO, in Lincoln, Neb.: 'My art is a window on my soul. My poetry is a door through which I invite others to join me as witnesses to triumph and tragedy in our search for goodness in humankind. When a composer sets my poetry to music, my heart sings



because it reaches a realm I cannot achieve on my own.”

From **Sam Rosenberg**: “My verse translation of the 13th-century narrative *Robert the Devil* appeared in 2018, followed in the same year by Armand Lunel’s history of the Jews of Provence. Then came my translation of the poetry of Paul Verlaine in 2019.

“I am now awaiting word on the acceptability of my translation of the anonymous *Tales of a Minstrel of Reims* and, from a much later century, the sonnets of Charles Baudelaire. Meanwhile, I am looking at the proofs of the lyric texts set by medieval composer Robert de Reims; the book should appear in September. Like everything else I’ve done, these publications all come from university presses. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be able to fill my remaining years with such constructive activity.”

I’m sad to report that **David Kinne** died on March 14, 2020, at 83. **Joe Diamond** says, “David was an enthusiastic member of a Columbia ‘rump reunion’ NYC lunch group — and a loyal alumnus. A modest man of large accomplishments, he will be missed.”

From **Jim McGroarty** ’64: “David was a good friend. He knew my brother, **John McGroarty** ’58, at Columbia and for many years David and his wife, **Kathleen**, shared their interest in theater and arts with me and my wife, **Jane BC** ’65.

“At the College he captained the wrestling team during his senior year and was awarded the **Gus Peterson Trophy**. He was also active

in Naval ROTC and was a member of Beta Theta Pi.

“After graduation, David served in the Navy for three years and then attended SUNY Downstate College of Medicine, graduating summa cum laude. After years of surgical training, including residency and fellowship, he served on the surgical staffs of three of the most prestigious hospitals in New York City. He became chief of the breast service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and later Columbia University Medical Center/New-York-Presbyterian Hospital and was also a professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center.

“Among the numerous awards in his career, several were for being an outstanding teacher and mentor of surgeons. When he retired from medicine, David became a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and continued to teach museum visitors about musical instruments, ancient and Mideast art, and great sculptures. In 2007 he gave tours at the Met to the incoming Class of 2011 as part of the 50th reunion of the Class of ’57.

“He is survived by **Kathleen**, his wife of 35 years; children, **James**, **Lisa** and **Jonathan**; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions to his beloved wrestling team may be made by check, mailed to Columbia Athletics Development, c/o Emily Maury, Development Coordinator, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th Street, MC 4524, New York, NY 10025, or given [online](#).”

**Ed Weinstein**: “I picked up *The New York Times* this morning [March 17] and was saddened to read the obituary of **David Kinne**. [Although] we did not know each other in our undergraduate years, we connected at regular class luncheons, which we attended for several decades. Then, together with **Carlos Muñoz** and **Mark Stanton**, we played golf from time to time at the courses to which each of us belonged. Our golf was not memorable, but the time spent together was always interesting. I suspect that was because of our Columbia heritage and memories, our enjoyment of the game and of each other’s company. David was a distinguished oncologist and surgeon, **Carlos** and **Mark** were a banker and an attorney, respectively, and I a CPA. Thus, we never discussed professional matters.

Nevertheless, conversation was never lacking, ranging from politics and history to music, art and theater. Our Columbia education was the foundation of our relationship and the substance from which we built it.

“David was a compassionate, kind and thoughtful man. The world is a better place as a result of his presence.”

Yours truly joins **Joe**, **Jim** and **Ed** in expressing fond memories of David. Over some years he, **Kathleen** and I would meet for lunch when I was in NYC. Although I remember him in his wrestling uniform working out in University Hall when I was jogging, I did not know him until our 50th reunion, when I got to talk to him and **Kathleen**. At our lunches we had many pleasant talks on various subjects.

## 1958

**Peter Cohn**  
[petercohn1939@gmail.com](mailto:petercohn1939@gmail.com)

As I write this column in the closing days of March, New York City has been declared the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States. I hope that by the time you read these Class Notes that the situation has improved significantly.

Our mailbag this month is short on class news (coronavirus effect?), but I received an email from **George Jochowitz** alerting me to the death of **Larry Nachman** GSAS’64, who had been living in Australia. I sent condolences to his family but I have not received any additional information.

I received further reminiscences about **Harlan Lane** from **Stan Schachne**. In addition to what was in the Spring 2020 issue, Stan noted that he had worked on the *Stuyvesant* H.S. newspaper with Harlan before they came to Columbia, plus “we had a floating poker game with penny stakes” that also included **Dave Londoner** (who passed away several years ago). Stan lives in the Washington, D.C., area and has only occasional contact with classmates.

Update on Columbia athletics: The men’s basketball team wound up in the Ivy League cellar — a very disappointing development, to say the least. But hooray for the Lady Lions (or Lionesses?!). In the fall they won the Ivy League cross-country title and in the winter the

Ivy League fencing title. In addition, the women’s basketball team earned a spot in the Ivy League playoffs for the first time. Unfortunately, the playoffs were called off because of the coronavirus pandemic, as were all NCAA playoffs. This also meant that the men and women on the combined Columbia fencing team could not defend their 2019 national championship. Promising seasons for tennis, baseball and softball were canceled, as well.

Keep the news coming, and remember that the class lunch is usually held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St (\$31 per person). I hope it will return this summer. Contact **Tom Ettinger** if you plan to attend, even up to the day before ([tpe3@columbia.edu](mailto:tpe3@columbia.edu)).

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
[nmgc59@gmail.com](mailto:nmgc59@gmail.com)

As I write this, due to the novel coronavirus, I am (and I suspect many of you are, as well) under a stay-at-home order. I hope that when you receive this the pandemic is over, our lives have resumed some semblance of life before the pandemic and the pandemic does not resume.

I must begin with some bad news. **Dave Clark** died on August 19, 2019, from complications attending his heart condition and pulmonary involvement. Dave came to Columbia from Wyoming, where he was an outstanding wrestler. He was a leading member of our wrestling team. I, among many others, knew Dave as a friend and a person of great integrity. He will be missed.

On to more pleasant news. **Bob Ferguson** reports that he is still breathing.

**Josh Fierer** reports from California: “Over the winter break, the Columbia lightweight crew flew to train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, which is between San Diego (where we live) and Mexico. When I saw that announcement, I asked if I could visit with my son, who rowed when he was an undergraduate at UC Davis. We spent a beautiful afternoon in the launch out on the water with the coach. For my fellow oarsmen,

Stay in  
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:  
[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).



you cannot imagine how much has changed in rowing. It was unimaginable when we were at Columbia that the College would pay for such an opportunity. That is probably why most of the athletes had rowed in high school but still chose Columbia rather than another Ivy.

"Lest you think my life is cushy, I still am chief of infectious diseases at the San Diego VA hospital in this time of coronavirus. This is my second pandemic; I remember the early days of the AIDS epidemic, when

caliber entertainment, lectures and the port tours that are provided. Our current cruise, Buenos Aires to Lima, was supposed to end today.

"As I write this, we are stranded in the Pacific as we have sailed north and south and been denied port entries into Lima (where we were supposed to disembark) and turned back from Chile after being refused entry after heading there for the past two days.

"Change in plans: Now we are heading north again, will go through the Panama Canal and

coronavirus. Even cardiac rehab is closed here. So, I try to exercise each day by walking a mile uptown (and it is hilly in Mount Healthy, Ohio). I saw Glenn Schaaf '61, SEAS'62 at a funeral about two weeks ago, and he seems to be doing well. This Thursday, I renewed my season football tickets in Ann Arbor. I hope there will be a season this fall."

**Murray Epstein** PS'63 writes, "In my quasi-retirement, I continue to co-chair two major worldwide clinical trials — the FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD clinical studies, which are designed to test the hypothesis that a new pharmacological strategy will reduce the rate of progression of kidney disease and cardiovascular disease. I co-chair the global data safety monitoring committee. In terms of background, worldwide, more than 2.5 million people receive renal replacement therapy (dialysis or transplantation), and this number is projected to grow and be more than double that in 2030.

"While the primary focus is on renal outcomes, potential benefits on cardiovascular events will be assessed as well. The hypothesis being tested is whether finerenone — a novel, newly developed mineralocorticoid-receptor antagonist (MRA) — will succeed in attenuating/abrogating the progression of kidney failure in type-2 diabetes (T2D) patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) at high risk of progression of their renal disease and CV.

"FIDELIO-DKD is currently running in 47 countries with an expected duration of approximately five and a half years. The study has been ongoing since September 2015 and the results are expected in the latter part of 2020.

"FIGARO-DKD, a companion study, is an extremely large international, multicenter, randomized, event-driven study formally designed to assess whether Finerenone reduces cardiorenal morbidity and mortality in T2D patients with CKD when used in addition to standard care. This clinical trial is currently running in 47 countries with an expected duration of approximately six years.


"My involvement in these companion global studies entails chairing the DMC (data safety monitoring committee), which is responsible for continual surveillance of the enrolled patients to

ensure that adverse events are detected early and preemptively, and it is our charge to jointly decide when the studies should be stopped for either good outcomes (efficacy or benefit) or for bad outcomes (futility or adverse events). My participation entails my spending well over 25 percent of my time in overseeing the conduct of these studies and extensive transatlantic travel. Lots of work, but quite fulfilling, and I hope the studies will succeed in achieving a good outcome with clinical benefit for diabetic patients with heart and/or kidney disease.

"My other professional endeavor is attempting to 'spread the gospel' regarding patients with heart failure and concomitant CKD. At present the guidelines of the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology and the European guidelines inform that we should not treat patients with heart failure whose kidney function is advanced (stage four chronic kidney disease, or worse). With the recent availability and approval by the FDA of novel potassium binders (patiromer and, more recently, sodium zirconium cyclosilicate (SZC)), we now have the capability to provide sustained therapy to patients with heart failure as well as to patients with advanced kidney failure, with life-saving drugs such as MRAs (called aldosterone blockers in the old terminology).

"I have written several articles and lectured at major cardiology and renal meetings providing a rationale for not 'abandoning' these patients but demonstrating that they too can benefit with consequent increased life span and an improved quality of life. In short, my mission is to disrupt the current treatment paradigm. As we are wont to say, the 'proof of the pudding is in the eating' — to succeed in launching a large clinical trial that will validate this thesis. I continue to 'preach,' but I believe, and I am hopeful, that such a clinical trial will be launched soon.

"Finally, I was extremely gratified to learn that two of my former students/mentees have become deans of major medical schools. Robert Sackstein, who started a research project in my laboratory at the precocious age of 13 and ultimately progressed to become professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and the world leader in the



**Nasty, brutish, short,  
Hobbes, in a nutshell captures  
Bildad the shuhite**

— Paul B. Kantor '59

there was widespread fear before we even knew the cause or how it spread. We will get through this, but I fear the worst. Stay well and away from crowds."

**J. Peter Rosenfeld** GSAS'61 reports: "I sold out and accepted a position on a corporate board (at 80)."

The company is Brainwave Science.

From **Steve Trachtenberg**: "I recently joined the board of Columbia University Press and traveled to Manhattan for my first meeting on my own, which was a post-cardio adventure. I am back at work. Today's work was a book review for *The Times* (London). I'm washing my hands like Lady Macbeth and gargling with Clorox."

Over the New Year my wife, Yona, and I spent a very pleasant 10 days in Hawaii with my son, Joseph Gelfand '01, his wife and his 4-year-old daughter. We did the usual things: hiking in Volcanoes National Park, whale watching and so forth on the Big Island, and visiting Sea Life Park and the blow hole on Hilo. We were also fortunate to be able to visit the *USS Arizona* Memorial at Pearl Harbor. The National Park at Pearl Harbor has an excellent museum telling the story of the attack.

**Herb Dean** writes: "March 15, COVID-19. Travails: My wife and I have enjoyed the advantages of cruises for the past decade, including avoiding packing and unpacking, the gourmet dining facilities, Broadway-

will, I hope, reach Miami to return home to Worcester.

"Meanwhile, there is plenty of food, we continue to feel well despite some passengers with 'colds,' there is good entertainment, we are enjoying the company of nice people and, most importantly, there is plenty of toilet paper. Fortunately, they had loaded up and refueled at our last port in Chile before heading out to Peru, as they were planning to return from Lima to Buenos Aires.

"So far, other than getting a little bored about being on the sea without a landing/tour, we have been provided activities including lectures, movies, trivia contests and entertainment, and there has been no decline in our gourmet-style food, with four luxury restaurants with menus ostensibly under Jacques Pépin's supervision.

"We cross the equator at midnight and should reach the Panama Canal in two days; then we wait in line for a berth through. They have not secured a port of entry thus far into the United States. I do plan to attend our next reunion with the usual provisos."

A classmate, but a man without a country.

**Kenneth Scheffel** reports:

"In February I spent eight days in Texas (Austin, San Antonio and the Texas hill country) with grad school friends from Duke. Now, I'm pretty much homebound thanks to the



nascent field of translational glyco-biology, was recently appointed dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University. The current dean of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine of Tel Aviv University (Israel's largest medical research and training complex) is a former research fellow whom I helped mentor over the years."

## 1960

**Robert A. Machleder**  
rmachleder@aol.com

The Spring 2020 *CCT* arrived on March 20. I immediately turned to our Class Notes, as I always do, to review my previous submission, which had been written in January. I read the opening sentences: "A healthy and happy 2020 to all. This is an auspicious new year." I shook my head as it filled with adjectives — flighty, capricious, improvident, thoughtless, presumptuous — and berated myself in self-deprecating good humor with every disparaging descriptive that I could think of that began with "You bloody ...". Alas, I had no crystal ball, nor do I have one now, and I have little idea what the world will be like when we all read this issue. In the passage of two and a half months, from January to March, the world had undergone an aberrant transformation and had become absolutely dystopian.

The Spring issue's Class Notes continued with comments regarding our 60th reunion, which was originally scheduled for June. Action by our Reunion Committee was ongoing at the time. As I write these notes, that traditional reunion has, of course, been canceled, as has every other gathering on Morningside Heights and on every other campus throughout the country. Members of our Reunion Committee received in March an email from Eric Shea, senior director of alumni relations, confirming the cancellation and expressing his deep regrets.

Athletics activities, concerts, the opera season, all canceled. We are constrained to practice social distancing. What has received remarkably little attention or commentary is how the facts of isolation, anxiety, panic and the disintegration of social norms will have pervasive and enduring adverse mental health

consequences. We are social animals. Renowned sociologist Émile Durkheim explored the concepts and importance of collective consciousness and "collective effervescence." Will the norms of social society be restored? And if so, how soon, and at what price?

And then, as I began to write this column, word arrived that the coronavirus had claimed the life of one of our most creative and acclaimed classmates. **Terrence McNally** died on March 24, 2020. A chronicle of his prodigious and brilliant work and the legacy that he left, having been reported by every major news outlet, are undoubtedly known to you all. My reflections are on the wonderful performances that I saw and enjoyed: *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Master Class*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; and others. And I have fond recollections of Terrence's frequent participation as a panelist on the Opera Quiz that was a regular feature during intermission of WQXR's live broadcasts of the Saturday matinee performances of the Metropolitan Opera. Our deepest condolences to Terrence's husband, Tom Kirdahy. [Editor's note: See "[Obituaries](#)."]

In another class loss, actor **Brian Dennehy** passed away on April 15, 2020. During his long career, Brian won two Tony Awards, an Olivier Award and a Golden Globe, and received six Emmy Award nominations. Our condolences to Brian's family. [Editor's note: See "[Obituaries](#)."]

But there were bright spots in the pathos. Our First Thursday of the Month Class Luncheons have been suspended until eating establishments reopen. Fortunately, we were delighted to welcome **Steve Lerner** at the lunch table at a gathering before the crisis was upon us.

**Larry Rubinstein** writes, "Robin and I have been happily living in Maine since I retired in 2003. What prompted me to write was reading about the passing of **Jerry Schmelzer**, with whom I was quite friendly on campus and then for a number of years following, although in the last couple of decades our contact waned. As I remember, Jerry was heavily interested in WKCR when on campus and went by the radio name of Jerry Summers. He wanted a less 'ethnic' name on the radio. We used to discuss this at great length

because we were both involved in Jewish affairs in our home communities. Mine was the Bronx and the Grand Concourse. His was Shaker Heights, Ohio. His family was very involved in Jewish affairs and he was quite proud of it.

"My connections to Columbia are not what they used to be. On occasion I would go to New York for the opera, and would always meet **Bob Berne** for breakfast. I also have become friends with Derek Wittner '65, who moved to Maine about five years ago when he retired with his wife, Kathryn. She had been an associate dean at the College dealing with student affairs. He had been the dean of alumni affairs and development for many years, and Bob and I worked with him on the Columbia College Fund.

"I have been involved in an online program available to College alumni — a re-creation of the Core Curriculum — called [Core Conversations](#), which is a virtual book club. So far, we have read *Democracy in America* by de Toqueville, a number of plays by Shakespeare, *The Iliad*, *The Republic*, some readings by James Baldwin, and the latest, *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf. Some I read while taking the Core the first time around. Some I read after College, and some I am reading for the first time. It is exciting to be part of the Columbia learning experience again, and I enjoy reading the teachers' (most of whom are younger than my children) comments and suggestions, as well as the other participants in the class. I can tell by most of the comments that I am clearly one of the older participants."

As I contemplated the cancellation of all my son's athletics competitions, I found it hard to grasp how devastating that would have been to me when I rowed lightweight crew. Crew was an activity that encompassed the entire academic year. Back in our day all the races were in the spring. Imagine having put heart and soul into half a year of intense workouts only to have the entire competitive season erased. One of the treasured trophies in lightweight crew regattas is the Dodge Cup, established by Columbia in 1964.

**Art Delmhorst** BUS'64 was involved in lightweight crew at the time. Here is Art's recollection how the trophy came to be, and an update: "During my two years at

the Business School, I coached the varsity lightweight crew. In my first year we beat Princeton, Yale, Penn, Rutgers and Georgetown. At the time, the lightweights had only one cup regatta, the Geiger Cup (Cornell, MIT and Columbia). The crew I was coaching my second year wanted to establish another cup and decided to raise money for a trophy for the Yale/Penn/Columbia regatta. We had won the race my first year of coaching and, in fact, had won it my senior year as an oarsman. The 1964 crew raised \$1,400 which, at that time, was the equivalent of a full year's tuition! Working with the athletics departments of the three colleges, it was decided to name the trophy after longtime Columbia trustee Marcellus Hartley Dodge CC 1903 (Dodge died in 1963). He was a coxswain while attending the College. Fortunately, we won its first race.

"The base eventually became separated from the cup, and was lost. Yale is believed to be the culprit. In spring 2019 it was decided to raise money for a new base and those who helped raise funds for the initial cup were invited to donate. The amount necessary was raised immediately.

"I was invited to attend the rededication ceremony. Also attending were Eric Danneman '67, BUS'72, who led the fundraising effort, and Dr. Jesse Hellman '64, who was the stroke of the crew to first win the cup."

## 1961

**Michael Hausig**  
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Hon. **José A. Cabranes** received the annual Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). Named for the late public servant, publisher, entrepreneur and philanthropist Phillip Merrill, this honor is bestowed on an individual who has "made an extraordinary contribution to the advancement of liberal arts education, core curricula, and the teaching of Western civilization and American history."

With decades of experience as a federal judge and time spent as a trustee of Yale, Columbia and Colgate, José comprehends that the





Dr. Oscar Garfein '61 with his daughter, Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91, and her children, Alex '20 and Chloe ('23 Harvard).

decay of academic freedom and freedom of expression are not limited to the American college campus, but have affected our entire society. In a *Washington Post* article on January 10, 2017, he asserted, "Our universities today must pay more than lip service to free expression. They must develop and maintain procedures that protect professors' ability to teach and learn without fear of retaliation. While political alignments may have flipped, the choice remains the same: academic freedom or civilizational decline."

As the first Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench in the continental United States, José has made it his life's mission to protect and uphold the most important liberties to a free society. Michael B. Poliakoff, president of ACTA, said, "Judge Cabranes has been a stalwart defender of campus freedom of speech and an eloquent advocate for rigorous study of the liberal arts. He exemplifies the values of heart and mind that the Merrill Award honors and celebrates."

**Allen Kaplan** received a lectureship in his name, established by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. In addition, *Allergy*, the journal of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, will publish an article summarizing Allen's 50-year research career as part of a series, "Legends in Allergy and Immunology." The major

contributions leading to the recognition he has received include discovery of a treatment for a skin disorder — chronic spontaneous urticaria — and working out a plasma enzyme cascade that is the cause of swelling disorders that are potentially fatal, which led to the development of therapies now available that interrupt steps in the pathway that he has discovered.

Positions Allen held include head of the Allergic Diseases Section at the NIH, chair of the Department of Medicine and director of the Department of Allergy, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology at Stony Brook University, and professor at the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Eugene Milone** wrote that he is slowly recovering from cataract surgery in one eye, and anticipates a corneal transplant in the other this summer, circumstances permitting. He considers this not to be a great situation for an astronomer, but considering everything else that could go wrong with any of us at this stage in life, not too bad.

**Barry McCallion** and his wife, Joanne, recently returned from a week of fishing and horseback riding in Costa Rica. Barry caught a 30-kilo roosterfish, which was successfully released moments later. Provided the planet holds together, Barry and Joanne will visit friends in Mexico in July and plan to be in Croatia in the fall. Priscilla Juvelis, Barry's book

dealer, included three of his unique books in her March catalog.

**Bob Salman** LAW'64 taught a two-hour course, "Trump Impeachment – What Happened And Why," in April. This is part of the Lifelong Learning program at Brookdale Community College. As part of his 80th birthday celebration, Bob went to spring training for the New York Yankees and spoke to GM Brian Cashman. From there, he and his wife, Reva, went to their daughter Elyse's new vacation home in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Bob met **Tony Adler** for lunch while in Florida.

In May, Bob's granddaughter Taylor Spiewak graduated from the University of Maryland.

Bob remains active politically. As a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, he supported Gov. Phil Murphy's successful effort to re-elect John Currie as chair.

Dr. **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 practices cardiology in Manhattan. He says he enjoys caring for people. Because he is not associated with, or paid by, any healthcare system, he can spend as much time as he chooses talking to and listening to people. From his perspective, that is a huge part of medicine.

After many years of academic affiliation with Columbia, Oscar's academic title of associate clinical professor of medicine at P&S has passed him by and he is currently an associate clinical professor of medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. His health is still good, he says, in large measure as the result of the marvelous advances in orthopedic surgery.

Oscar was the speaker at his Business School graduation. It was the best teaching he ever experienced in his life, he says.

Oscar has many Columbians in his extended family. His daughter, [Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91, PS'00, HN'16](#), is an ob/gyn practicing in Englewood, N.J., and the chief medical correspondent for *ABC News*. She is also the author of six books. Her oldest child, Alex '20, majored in math and computer science. He will be a software development engineer with Amazon this summer. Her daughter, Chloe, finished her freshman year at Harvard, majoring in history and playing for its women's ice hockey team. Unfortunately, Columbia doesn't have a women's hockey team.

Oscar's son, Evan PS'99, did his undergraduate work at Princeton, where he played on the national champion lacrosse team. After training for eight years in the Harvard system and one year as a fellow in microvascular surgery at NYU, he is chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Montefiore Medical Center in New York. Evan and his wife, Tanya Simon '92, have two children. Tanya is executive editor of *60 Minutes*.

Oscar's former wife is Dorothy TC'67.

Oscar is in touch with **Arnie Intrater**, Harvey Rosen '62, **Avrum Bluming** and **Jim Matthews**, as well as members of the CC'61 luncheon group that meets monthly. Every time he sees or walks through the Morningside campus, he says he feels an enormous thrill and sense of gratitude, and that his time there was extraordinary. He wishes us all the best of health, and happiness.

Dr. **Carl Saviano** writes that his biggest concern is the real possibility of nuclear war and its connection with climate change. He is working with Physicians for Social Responsibility, trying to inform people about the danger and get them involved with [Back from the Brink](#).

**Tony Adler** and 12 other permanent South Florida residents or snowbirds met for lunch in February at TooJay's Deli, Bakery and Restaurant in Lake Worth Beach, Fla. In attendance, in addition to Tony, were **Mich Araten**, **Hal Berliner**, **Allen Breslow**, **Phil Cottone**, **George Gehrman**, **Pete Giovine**, **Arnie Goldberg**, **Arnie Intrater**, **Dan Johnson** (who drove from Naples), **Steve Leone**, **John Lipani** and **Fred Teger** (who drove from Miami). They planned to do it again in March but COVID-19 got in the way.

Several years ago, **Jim Ammeen's** second career began with his involvement and turnaround of whiskey manufacturer Clyde May's, now a brand within the corporate parent Conecuh Brands, A Premium Spirits Company. In February, Clyde May's whiskey was named the Official Whiskey of Talladega Superspeedway. Jim has added tequila and Irish whiskey to the company's product offerings. In September 2018, The Clyde May's brand was the fastest growing brand in the U.S. Nielsen top 100 American Whiskey brands.

Kudos to Jim.



**Dick Hall** and his wife, Heleny, spent nine months in Williamstown, Mass. (site of Williams College), where Heleny grew up, and had access to a family house. Columbia College is very different than Williams, although Dick and Heleny audited very good classes, they said. He thinks the difference is referred to as “New York City.”

Sadly, two classmates and the spouse of a classmate passed away recently.

**Charles Wuorinen** GSAS’63, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and formidable advocate for modernist music, high culture and the composer’s worth, died on March 11, 2020, in Manhattan. He was 81. The cause was complications of a fall sustained in September.

Charles received a surge of attention in 2004, when the New York City Opera premiered his opera *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, based on a novel by Salman Rushdie. That was followed by a commission to compose an opera based on Annie Proulx’s short story *Brokeback Mountain*, which was also the basis of the 2005 movie of the same name.

Charles, who won the Pulitzer in music in 1970 at 31, composed works for major orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony. He is survived by his husband, Howard Stokar, with whom he lived for decades in a brownstone on the Upper West Side. [Editor’s note: See “[Obituaries](#).”]

The Rev. Canon **Gregory Michael Howe** passed away on January 12, 2019, in Provincetown,

Mass. Greg moved to Provincetown with his wife, Bernice (“Bunny”), upon his retirement after serving as rector of historic Christ Church in Dover, Del., for 34 years.

During his tenure in the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware, Greg served on the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council, and as chair of the Standing Committee. At the national level, he served on the Episcopal Church’s Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, where he helped develop, co-author and edit liturgical resources for use in worship. Recognized for his contributions, the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church appointed Greg as Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, a position he held until 2000.

**Phillip Smith** GSAPP’69’s spouse, Douglas Thompson GSAPP’70, died on November 8, 2019, at 76, after a yearlong illness. He and Phillip began working together in 1975. Their firm, Smith and Thompson Architects, had completed more than 100 projects. A memorial for Doug was held on December 5, 2019, at the General Theological Seminary Chapel of the Good Shepherd in New York, followed by a reception at the architects’ studio in Chelsea.

## 1962

**John Freidin**  
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Every classmate who emailed in March sent best wishes to the class. **Jim Spingarn** said it especially nicely: “I wish all a quick and favorable outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic — one of the few things Columbia didn’t prepare us for. Oh, for Jim Shenton ’49’s wit and insights!”

Jim and his wife, Jane, live at Admirals Cove in Jupiter, Fla., in the winter and at Long Island’s Glen Head in the summer. Jim retired from securities brokerage five years ago. He enjoys golf, bridge, swimming and lectures, often with Steve Solomon ’64, Ron Gittess PS’59, DM’63 and Mike Etra ’48. Jim writes, “With the world turned upside down it looks like travel will be a bit remote now. But there are more important things.”

For years **David Birnbaum** lived in Hong Kong. Now he and his

wife live in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He writes, “We have three grown children: son Joshua, a computer security specialist, lives in New York; son Sam, a game theory specialist, lives in Amsterdam; and daughter Emma, who is a doctoral student at University College London. I am still in the garment trade.”

**John Garman** BUS’67 makes a gentle plea: “Unfortunately, of our 600 classmates, only a few send news. I treasure my Columbia years as opportunities for new learning, new experiences and new people! Playing ’62 politics; standing at the Met for operas; riding the Staten Island Ferry (which once almost ran over my father and me when our outboard motor conked out in front of the ferry pier); being exposed to Indian, Chinese and Japanese studies; enjoying snails at the Cafe Brittany; making and then getting paddled with my Beta Theta Pi paddle; skipping meals at John Jay to eat lunch at ‘the Japs,’ where call-in orders were so colorful (tuna on toast was ‘One Radio Down’); smoking a pipe in Dwight Miner CC 1926’s seminar; giving blood for the first time in the Blue Key Drive; and listening to Art Garfunkel ’65 hit high notes as, wrapped in towel, he walked down the hall to the Hartley showers!

“But that was then. What interests me now is what our classmates are doing. Or what were some of the accomplishments that gave them the most satisfaction — not to brag, but to share.”

**Toby Robison** discloses: “My wife, Elaine Golden Robison BC’63, is bored in isolation and is reading digital books. But my time is full trying to write a too-complicated work of fantasy fiction and stocking up on food for Passover. That, finding new friends on the kinder social network Mastodon and playing board games online, fill my days.

“I fear COVID-19 is merely the first of a series of shocks lying ahead. How will the death of most insects affect us? When will the next floods and tornadoes arrive? What will next year’s flu be like? Will the small businesses we rely on survive? And what will the throngs of coastal dwellers who abandon their underwater homes and turn up on our doorsteps find? Interesting times.”

Retired Reform rabbi **Don Splansky** writes from Framingham,

Mass.: “The 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum reminds me of my early years at Columbia, when I was drunk on great books. I found a wonderful volume by a current Lit Hum professor, Edward Mendelson. His book, *The Things that Matter, What Seven Classic Novels Have to Say about the Stages of Life*, analyzes seven British novels by five women: Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*, and Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*, *To the Lighthouse* and *Between the Acts*. I was delighted. Mendelson’s book is scholarly, yet readable. It offers new insights into human nature, moral living and connections between literature and life. (I have tried during my career to do that with Biblical and rabbinic literature.) Because we can’t take Lit Hum now, Mendelson may be the next best thing!”

**Chris Haakon** reports: “Our family and neighbors are well. We celebrated Friday night happy hour on our street with everyone six feet apart. Fortunately, my three children and seven grandkids live in the neighborhood, a Virginia boating community 20 miles from Washington, D.C. Twenty-four children of parents from the neighborhood have bought homes here. I’ve been doing some angel investing and sitting on four boards of directors and three advisory boards. I retired from Boeing, which bought my company in 2000.”

**Paul Gitman** (retired physician/administrator) lives on Long Island. His three children and all his grandchildren are within 30 minutes. “So,” he says, “life is good. I travel as much as possible and enjoy photography ([gitman.shutterfly.com](mailto:gitman.shutterfly.com)). For my 80th birthday we’ll go by ship from the tip of South America to New Zealand. I hope COVID-19 will be gone by then.”

**Anthony Valerio** sends hopes that all are “healthy and even enjoying this confinement and solitude. It’s a double isolation for me, first as a lifelong artist, now this one. With my wife. Interesting, difficult and added nervousness.”

**Peter Yatrakis** and his wife, Kathryn, “are staying home (in Brooklyn) except for long walks. We’re lucky to be near beautiful Brooklyn Bridge Park, and several times on our walks have elbow-bumped friends and neighbors.



## Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click “Contact Us” at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).



Most difficult is not seeing our children and grandchildren. On two sunny days, we sat on our stoop with neighbors gathered no closer than six feet except when I brought out the wine. Doesn't wine kill this bug?"

**Crawford Kilian** reports: "COVID-19 has upended our lives here as everywhere. At least we have front and back yards to work in, and a big wooded park to walk our dog. I'm [blogging](#) about the pandemic."

**Dennis Wilder** GSAS'63 is producing his second feature film — a screenplay he wrote titled *Hell Hath No Fury*. His first feature, *Beauty in the Broken*, is on YouTube. Making it, he says, "was one of the best experiences of my life. I wish I'd become a writer and executive producer of independent films years ago."

For 40 years Dennis has enjoyed a successful career as CEO of California Care Center, which he still operates. It provides residential care and treatment for persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities and homelessness. Dennis says, "I am soon to celebrate 54 years of marriage to my wonderful wife, Joan, sister of **Mel Werbach**. Our marriage has grown better every year."

When there's time, Dennis plays tennis and the clarinet (especially klezmer music), and enjoys boating on his yacht, *Jewel of Denial*.

From **Phil Lebovitz**: "Sometimes an opportunity creates a warm memory to help us through bleak times. **David Tucker** PS'66 learned that I would be in New York for a meeting on February 10 of the American Board of Psychoanalysis, where I am treasurer. David immediately contacted several classmates to suggest we dine together. On February 9, David, **Paul Alter**, **Ed Pressman**, **Harvey Chertoff**, **Stuart Rosenbluth** and I met at BLT Prime. **Stan Waldbaum** had planned to be there but had to cancel.

"Renewing ties with them was warm and inspiring. Harvey and I realized we'd both rowed lightweight crew as freshmen and subsequently become psychoanalysts. David and I have had sporadic contact over the years and enjoy medical and intellectual conversations. Ed and I were roomies sophomore and junior year. Paul is warm and energetic as ever. Stuart, regrettably, was at the far end of the table so we'll catch up next time. BLT Prime starts every meal with its signature popovers, a

favorite of mine whenever my wife, Donna BC'64, makes them. I hope we'll gather again at fall reunion."

**Roman Kernitsky** continues practicing ophthalmology, although lately he's spent most of his time at home due to the coronavirus pandemic. He has corresponded regularly with **Joel Goldman**, **Irving Weissman** and **Frank Grady** (now deceased), and writes: "It is wonderful to have good friends (to paraphrase St. Augustine, friendship is a gift from God in a tough world). I am grateful to the Core Curriculum for introducing me to the classics in literature and music. They sustain me during my leisure. My son Andrew '03, a State Department diplomat, is stationed in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Surprisingly, the biggest shortage there now is flour, which was a scarcity during the Serbian-Bosnian conflict."

**Tony Fisher** GSAS'68 retired several years ago and is now emeritus professor of agricultural and resource economics at UC Berkeley. He no longer teaches, but is still engaged in research and writing. His latest book, *Lecture Notes on Environmental and Resource Economics*, will be published this year.

Joan and **Richard Toder** planned to visit Spain and Morocco in March, but canceled and thus were not marooned in the Sahara! They winter in Naples, Fla., and, in Richard's words, "Our May plans to return to the epicenter in New York are, needless to say, fluid."

Meanwhile their daughter, Elizabeth, and her two children are in Madagascar, where she works for the U.S. Treasury. So far, Richard says, "Few people on that isolated island have contracted the coronavirus. Nevertheless, Elizabeth, a graduate of Middlebury College, recently purchased a home in Cornwall, Vt., where she hopes eventually to reside."

**Pete Stevenson** shares, "I'm approaching 80, which is astonishing as I review the replacement parts, surgeries and injuries I've inflicted upon myself: hernia surgery, carpal tunnel of both hands, broken ribs, broken leg, damaged shoulder, ankle replacement, knee replacement, hip replacement, stents and a triple bypass. Despite these obstacles, I served in the Marine Corps for 20 years (active and reserve) and retired as a major.

"In parallel, I worked in the textile industry for 45 years in big and

small firms, two of which I owned. In another parallel, I was an officer of the International Geosynthetics Society for 27 years, until 2010. Now things are less demanding. I work part-time as a marine surveyor and happily get 40–50 boat rides annually, exercise at the YMCA, am a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus in an active council and am an officer in a local chapter of the United States Power Squadrons. COVID-19 permitting, my wife of 34 years and I plan to travel to Alaska aboard an 88-passenger boat in May and then explore the Canal du Midi in France captaining a 45-ft. vessel with two other couples in September."

Not bad for a Marine!

**Gerald Sorin** GSAS'69 is in his 32nd year as the director of the Louis and Mildred Resnick Institute for the Study of Modern Jewish Life at SUNY New Paltz. In May 2019 he delivered two illustrated lectures as the third annual speaker for the Rabbi Hillel Cohn Endowed Lecture Series at California State University, San Bernardino, one at the CSU:SB Palm Desert Campus, and another to an overflow crowd at Riverside Art Museum. A 1970s student of Gerry's, now president of CSU:SB, invited him to give these lectures.

"By the time you read this," Gerry writes, "I hope the COVID-19 crisis is over, and things are bouncing back. Whatever happens, we will never be the same. In the meantime, I think about the world's most vulnerable, who always suffer most in a crisis. I have relearned the importance of reaching out to relatives, friends and strangers. Is it possible that out of this horror, a silver lining will be that we are in this together and must take care of each other? Let's work at restoring the social contract."

From New York City, **Lester Hoffman** reports: "I am part of a nationwide team of consultants addressing the impacts of inclusion and unconscious bias on a large American city. It's the first major initiative of its kind within this city."

Dr. **Russ Warren** writes from Greenwich, Conn.: "Difficult times in NYC. Being elderly (80), the Hospital for Special Surgery sent me home (I am a staff member). Now [that HSS is] open only for fractures, tendon ruptures and the like, New York-Presbyterian transferred

its patients to HSS to release beds for those with the virus. Greenwich is empty, but today the flowers and early buds make it beautiful. Our anesthesia department is using its ventilators to help patients with respiratory problems. I note the Navy sent the *USNS Comfort* to NYC to help with beds. I spent a year in Vietnam on a similar ship, the *Repose*, long since laid to rest. It had more than 1,000 beds."

And finally, an appropriate summary from **Daniel Stone**: "Winnipeg, Canada (our home for the past 50 years), has not (yet) passed into the community phase of the pandemic but we're trying to keep it that way by following guidelines for the elderly people we've become. Reading, streaming, a little web research and ordering groceries from stores that deliver has become our life."

## 1963

**Paul Neshamkin**  
pauln@helpauthors.com

The outbreak of COVID-19, and the fact that as of this writing my wife and I have self-isolated ourselves at our Jersey Shore house for the last three weeks, prompted me to reach out to the class to see how everyone is doing. I held a virtual Class of '63 lunch via Zoom in April, and 16 of us shared news — some reassuring, but others very sad. We learned that we have lost our good friend and lunch regular **Tom O'Connor** to this horrible disease.

Tom was our class's football captain and a member of the 1961 Ivy League championship team. He was one of the nicest guys in our class — I will always remember him for his warm smile and true friendship. Our best wishes to his widow, Terrie, and family.

Rest in Peace, dear friend.

This has been a tough time for many of us, and I hope by the time you read this, the world is a lot better for all of us. After I sent an email asking for news, I was flooded with a record number of replies, some of which are included here. The rest — from **Steve Barcan**, **Ken Master**, **Abba Rubin**, **John Gleason**, **Martin Greenfield**, **Elliott Greher**, **Richard Tuerk**, **David Orme-Johnson** and **Mike Benner** — will be in the Fall issue.





Several members of the Class of 1963 had a Zoom video meeting to connect, while maintaining social distance, during the coronavirus outbreak.

**Lee Lowenfish** writes, "I'm holed up near Columbia — have a traditional spring cold with sniffles and sore throat, but nothing virus-connected, I hope. Here's my latest [blog post](#), with a few cultural tips for the non-baseball lover."

**Peter Broido** writes, "I broke my ankle on February 4. I was climbing on a ladder and reached too far. The ladder became unstable and fell with me on it, which resulted in a compression fracture of my fibula with subsequent surgery: plate and screws, plus a piece of cadaver bone to restore the length of my fibula. As I have been totally non-weight bearing, I have been confined to my home, a fortuitous event; however, today the doctor is finally allowing me to start to walk, which is progress. Of course, there is no place to go. Such is life."

**Doug Anderson** reports, "We, luckily, are living in Palm Beach, Fla., and more than half of our neighbors have moved back north to live in their private homes rather than in an apartment. We keep up to date on what's happening by watching too much MSNBC and having wonderful phone calls from our grandchildren and children, who insist that we must be more orthodox in our behavior — no matter how orthodox we are."

"Almost nobody is wearing a face mask or gloves; there are none to be had. Our local Publix supermarket has moved the opening hour from

6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. so staff can stock the shelves with whatever comes in overnight; they have been doing a great job staying stocked. What's crazy is that for 30 minutes before opening there is a scrum of 150–200 people at the front door, with everyone needing to be first. A small number of us stay in our cars until the group is all inside. Our building manager has done a terrific job despite the fact that nobody can get a coronavirus test. We're down to 100 residents and 15 staff members, and have no idea if anyone has the virus."

"Yesterday I learned that Jerry Speyer '62, BUS'64 is chair of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. I sent him an email saying how lucky they are to have him but that he surely didn't expect to be in charge during such a time and to stay safe. Here's what he wrote back: 'Thanks, pal! It's really brutal. We need all kinds of equipment but especially ventilators. If you know anybody that is in that business or has access to the ventilators, please let me know. Stay healthy!'"

I read in early March that **Robert Kraft** sent one of his New England Patriots planes to China to pick up 1.2 million N95 facemasks, which he had promised the governor of Massachusetts (he was able to have 300,000 of them sent to NYC to relieve its desperate need). Newspaper accounts such as in [The Wall Street Journal](#) will give you details.

Thank you, Bob!

**Frank Sypher** writes, "I am working remotely and joining regular office staff meetings by conference call. Nothing special going on in my neighborhood that is not going on elsewhere in Manhattan. When I go out for a walk there tend to be few people around except dog walkers, or people with children on scooters or with bags of groceries. I have a book coming out but the publisher cannot take delivery on the copies because operations are closed, so the printer is keeping the books in storage until delivery becomes feasible. At that time I will send you details."

**David Alpern** writes, "Like so many, my wife, Sylvia, and I are already at least minor victims of the virus even if don't actually have it (and that remains to be seen). Hunkering down in Sag Harbor on Long Island with only a few brief shopping trips and trips to the post office for items ordered online. After 12 wonderful days in Morocco (my third trip since 1971, her first), we returned to JFK on March 9, with not-unusual post-flight colds, spent the night at our apartment and then took the Jitney to Sag. I was waiting a few more days before seeking the test to make sure the 'bug,' if there, had time to establish itself sufficiently to show up. But now I feel it's best not to overload the system as long as we are not in severe distress. BTW, I also discov-

ered upon return that a website for journalists, [Muck Rack](#), discovered some of my recent work and set up a [small archive](#), albeit with the bio and photo of a different David Alpern on West Coast. It's now corrected and expanded."

**Alan Wilensky** writes, "Sheltering in place in Seattle. Getting ready for Passover. We expected the whole family for the holiday and we bought accordingly before everything was canceled. Now there will only be the two of us. Will be sharing part of the holiday with the kids on Zoom."

**Larry Neuman** writes, "We are locked down in Tel Aviv and restricted to staying within 100 meters of home. Single-file lines into the only stores open, groceries and pharmacies, but lots of fresh fruit and vegetables available."

**Paul Kimmel** writes, "Living in East Brunswick, N.J. Working at Rutgers teaching general chemistry, a large class with about 1,000 students. All lectures are recitations, exams are online. Riding the tandem bicycle with my wife to get some exercise. Talking to our four sons and their families via FaceTime."

**Art Eisenson** writes, "New Mexico, while a poor state, is intelligently governed. Most people observe social distancing, but some are oblivious. Food shopping is regimented foraging. My wife has a chronic autoimmune disease, and we worry that necessary meds are being hoarded by those who don't need them, and it seems I'm in the highest risk category. We're handling the shifts to scarcities and shutdowns, having lived through multiple earthquakes and the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles."

**Bob Donahue** writes, "Celebrated the 79th last Friday. My son and his wife visited wearing masks and gloves. It was a great happy birthday because of his card to me: 'Happy Birthday, Dad! We all know that you aren't actually 79 years old, you're just 18 with 61 years of experience! I hope you realize that you are the best gift I've ever had ...' — we adopted each other 15 years ago when he was 15. Greatest experience of my life!"

**Barry Austern** writes, "I know how bad it is in the NYC area, and I really grieve for you. Here in Cincinnati (and all Ohio) things are in lockdown, pretty much, other than for really necessary stuff. We belong





to two congregations, because my wife is more Reform and I more Conservative, and both have canceled all services, with them just online. The only church around here that I know is still open is the Solid Rock Church of 'Big Butter Jesus' fame. When lightning destroyed that idol they should have realized that God didn't like graven images, but they rebuilt it with a slightly different idol.

"I don't always get the exercise I want. I can walk or bike in nice weather, but the gym is closed. I don't know if the nearby mall is still open, but I'd be afraid to go there. Take care, and stay safe and healthy."

**Jeff Parson** writes, "My reaction to what you New Yorkers and the rest of the world are experiencing borders on disbelief, although I'm aware that scientists and others have predicted pandemics for years, often in the context of human-caused global warming. Two years ago I wrote a play, *Antelope Girl: On the Edge of Extinction*, that deals with the threat of a pandemic caused by a sickness that, in fact, killed more than 11,000 of the world's most populous antelope herd in Kazakhstan in three days.

"I live in Ashland, Ore., where my play was given a well-attended dramatic reading. Two years ago I received a writer-in-residency grant to Can Serrat in Barcelona. Last year I applied for a Rockefeller Foundation grant to the Bellagio Center in Italy, which, of course, has been put on hold due to the crisis. Right now, I'm hunkered down in Oregon, trying to remain hopeful

and musing that now's a time for compassion, bravery and resolve."

**Ephraim Fischbach** writes, "As a (still-active!) physics professor at Purdue, I am facing all the same problems my colleagues elsewhere are dealing with, in trying to complete the semester online. At Purdue we are also facing the problems arising from a large population of international students, many of whom have no place to go when they leave the dorms. But there might be a tiny silver lining: After talking to some of my colleagues here and elsewhere, I am guessing the spring semester GPA across the country may be somewhere between A and A+!"

**Joel Krosnick** writes, "Since retiring in 2016 as cellist of the Juilliard String Quartet, I have taught the cello full-time at the Juilliard School. Similar to Columbia and Barnard, Juilliard canceled its classes, and it closed its Lincoln Center building. I have been teaching my 16 cello students via Zoom since March 16. Many of the students have gone 'home' to Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, Taipei and Sydney; others are in San Francisco, Los Angeles and all around the United States. Last evening, our 25 or so students; my colleague Darrett Adkins; and I gathered for our weekly performance class, on Zoom, on which we will, for the next two months, hear solo recitals, jury exams and solo performances. It is wonderful to see each other, dear friends by now."

**Chet Osborn** writes, "I feel so bad for NYC. I'm so proud of New Yorkers, the mayor, the governor and the administration, along with the American public at large. A zoonotic pandemic was always a global risk but the nation is tackling it head-on. I'm in the western North Carolina mountains, and fortunately our area is COVID-19-free. For now. Everyone here is following the reverse isolation guidelines but I hope the country can incrementally return to work before too long.

"I've had a wonderful life, both professionally as a cardiovascular/thoracic surgeon and now in an active, happily healthy retirement. I have two daughters and three grandchildren. All are healthy but awaiting the time life can get back to normal. Godspeed, everyone. Stay safe."

**Bob Heller** writes, "My wife, Amy, and I are no longer meeting

friends face to face, but we are seeing them for 'quarantinis'—cocktails and conversation on Zoom. We also are taking advantage of the great weather to take long walks (4–5 miles) in Central Park and around the city. We rediscovered Riverside Park south of 100th Street, as well. The streets are relatively empty and social distancing is easy. The most populated area is Central Park, but keeping your distance is not that difficult. We no longer enter stores, preferring to order from supermarkets online. Also, we have discovered how many dishwasher cycles you go through in a week when you are preparing and eating all meals at home."

**Ken Ostberg** writes, "While the virus is advancing here in Winston-Salem, N.C., we are nowhere near a hotspot, so that's a positive for us. My wife, Andi, and I just checked off two more items on our bucket list. We spent three and a half weeks in New Zealand, with a stop in Tahiti on the way. While it's winter here, it's summer there. Tahiti was hot and humid and a lovely spot to relax and unwind for a few days. We can now say that we've dipped our toes in the South Pacific and walked on black sand beaches. New Zealand is a lovely country of but 5 million people. They seem pretty happy and prosperous, with seemingly few social tensions. Our main stops were in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Greymouth, with side trips into the mountains and along the coasts. The country is mountainous, being formed by the movement of tectonic plates and several hundred volcanoes, some of which are still active.

"We flew home just ahead of COVID-19 across the Pacific and the United States, so we seem to have avoided infection. We did avoid all the tumult and disruption from testing in the various airports. Now we are sequestered at home and emailing and Skyping with family and friends."

**Peter Gollon**, by dint of fortuitous timing, spent four days hiking in Joshua Tree National Park at the end of February on his annual "get outdoors in the Southwest to celebrate the end of winter" trip. His wife, Abby Pariser BC'67, joined him to then visit friends and museums in Tucson and Phoenix, where they spent an afternoon in the little-known but fascinating Musical

Instrument Museum. It has guitars used by Joan Baez and Elvis Presley, Pablo Casals's cello and so much more. Peter and Abby returned home just ahead of the shutdown of almost everything, and are now staying as far from other people as they can. Peter is a trustee of the Long Island Power Authority, which supplies electricity to two counties outside New York City, and director emeritus of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

**Lee Scher** writes, "I always look forward to reading about our class even though I had not been a contributor to date. Every time I sit down to write something I am overwhelmed by all that has transpired since 1963. Good jobs, early retirement, children and grandchildren on the plus side. Loss of two wives to cancer on the minus side. Now that I seem to have more quiet time thanks to the virus maybe I can figure it out."

**John Karlberg** writes, "Last year was difficult for me—I had a laryngectomy (removal of my larynx) and now I breathe and speak through a stoma (hole in my throat). But, I am thankful for a successful operation and now my life is back to normal. We are in Palm Coast, Fla., in the winter and in Pocono Pines, Pa., in the summer. Both homes are on golf courses and I play a lot of golf (still a high handicapper) and tennis. The tennis courts are now closed but the golf course is open. Everything else here in Palm Coast is basically closed. I pray everyone can weather this storm."

**Richard Gochman** writes, "My wife, Alice, and I are hunkered down on 'Lazy Bear Farm' in Chatham (Columbia County), N.Y. The county has a population of 58,000, with probably more cows than people. While no place is entirely free from COVID-19, people look after each other, especially us 'elderly' folks. Friends call and say, 'I am going to the market. Can I get you anything?' One of our best friends is a dairy farmer and he says not to worry about meat: If necessary, he will have a cow butchered. Another nearby friend has a chicken coop, so we always have eggs. A lot of our fresh produce is locally grown, some in hotheouses, so we get it fresh year-round.

"I speak to my friend **Paul Reale** a couple of times a week, and he continues to be on a roll. The July/August issue of *Fanfare* (the lead-

## Stay in Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:

[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).



ing periodical on recorded serious music) will include a front-page article by him."

**Paul Gorin** (and the rest of the class) was unable to make the last Class of '63 lunch, as it was canceled for obvious reasons. He has completed his new play, *Crossing Brooklyn Bridge*, and would like to share it with classmates for comments: [gorrin.paul@gmail.com](mailto:gorrin.paul@gmail.com).

Once this is over and you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club, once it reopens). I'm hoping we'll be able to meet again by September 10; the next two will be on October 8 and November 12.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing, and what's next. Stay safe!

## 1964

**Norman A. Olch**  
[norman@nolch.com](mailto:norman@nolch.com)

As I write this note I am practicing social distancing. It is the middle of April and I have been in my Manhattan apartment for five weeks. I do some legal work, read, nap and watch movies. When the sun is out, I stand by the window and soak it in. The news is grim. I hope by the time this is published that society's lot will have improved.

**John Cirigliano** writes from Lexington, Ky., that with the outbreak of coronavirus he and his wife, Nancy, have canceled trips to Italy and France. He says, "I wonder, will we ever make it back to those countries? Lexington's food-at-the-door restaurants and coffee shops continue, but that might not last. Lexington's biggest gash is an expected 90 percent reduction in leisure industry employment and the occupational taxes that go with that. Nancy and I observe the protocols as much as possible. Our farm gives us lots of room to move around to avoid stir-craziness. My best to all."

**Allen Tobias** writes from Brooklyn that he is unloading his literary and cinema collections. He has sold to the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale (which has a major collection of African-American literary art) correspondence with

the estate of Richard Wright and has sold to the RBML at Columbia his poetry notebook annotated by Allen Ginsberg '48 together with other correspondence and materials. He is also donating to the RBML at Columbia a large collection of materials relating to Ginsberg, and he is donating to the RBML at Penn rare books and other materials. Allen is also organizing his films, videos and photography for acquisition by a major university.

**Arnie Zeiderman** writes from Sutter Creek, Calif. (pop. 3,000), that his journey in life is "quite different" from many classmates who have distinguished careers in or near large metropolitan centers.

"I was born and raised in the Bronx and Yonkers. Suburban public schools did not prepare me well for the intense competition at Columbia. But I thrived and had a wonderful experience, especially the two years living on campus. Fraternity life (AEPi) was fulfilling. I entered and graduated as a pre-med.

"My career path came early: As a teen I was motivated by the struggle, failures and ultimate success in the building of the Panama Canal. I was considering a future as a civil engineer. The problem with the project was that of terrible disease, not of 'moving dirt'; Dr. William Gorgas conquered the malaria and yellow fever that had killed workers by the thousands and interrupted progress for decades. He knew that understanding the key vector role of mosquitoes, and eradicating them, was fundamental. He became the U.S. surgeon general. Gorgas was a key player in the history of public health medicine, which is again in the limelight with the coronavirus. He was my hero. Becoming a medical doctor won out over being a civil engineer.

"I graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1968 at 26 along with five other College grads. After two years of internship/residency in Atlanta, I moved to Palo Alto, Calif., for further training and became enamored with the California lifestyle and the Stanford environment.

"There was a draft, or deferred service obligation, at that time. So, it was off to Germany for two years to serve in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Heidelberg and practice ob/gyn. Then, a fellowship at the

UC Berkeley School of Public Health for a master's in public health. Declining an academic or administrative track, I embarked on a sequence of rural medical practice, academic public health, training family practitioners, being an HMO department chair, being an urban indigent hospital director and training Navy doctors, then an academic appointment and clinical practice.

"I married late and had two sons just before age 50. In 1995, at the midpoint of my career, we moved back to California from the East Coast, settling in the 'gold country' Sierra Nevada foothills between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite. Great hiking and skiing.

"I returned to again practice rural general ob/gyn. My practice was expansive and comprehensive, personal and rewarding. My R.N. wife, Peggy, worked in my office for 10 years while we raised our sons in the local schools. She is retiring this year after a decade of case management at an urban medical center.

"Our ranch home is surrounded by 18 acres of flower beds, vegetable gardens, pastures, two black Angus cattle, egg-laying chickens and many birds, and beautiful heritage oaks, redwoods and Ponderosa pines. This is a beautiful region with a moderate climate and great natural resources. In a rural county with children schooling locally, and a medical practice in town, personal networks are extensive and experienced daily in practice and in the community. This is rewarding and comforting during difficult times such as now.

"I closed my solo practice in 2013 and during the past decade have served on 10 volunteer medical missions, mostly surgical and international, which have taken me to the Philippines, Ethiopia, Nepal, India and the Dominican Republic. My older son, a UC Berkeley grad, is completing his residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at UC Davis, living in Sacramento with his younger brother, a business major and now a senior tax auditor for the State of California. I chair my county behavioral health advisory board, where we have disproportionate rates of suicide and substance abuse, as well as a dearth of psychiatric services/access. Challenges abound here.

"My education at Columbia was superb. It is one of my most valued credentials. As a philosophy major

with a world-class faculty, this exposure provided me with a foundation of knowledge and thoughtful analysis. I appreciate that gift. In various other ways the Columbia University academic policies and public/political postures disappoint me. Sometimes it is intense. Some of us see things differently and hold other values and priorities. Do one's values determine their future environment? Or does one's environment shape their values?

"It has been my good fortune to have this fulfilling life so different from my fellow grads.

"I enjoy their stories in Class Notes. I hope they enjoy mine."

I am saddened to report the death of **Jerry Oster**. I knew Jerry from Forest Hills H.S., where he played on the tennis team (which won the Queens County championship), and in weekend schoolyard basketball games.

His wife, Trisha Lester, writes from Chapel Hill, N.C., where she and Jerry lived: "Jerry had several successful careers. He was a reporter for United Press International, Reuters and the *New York Daily News*. He wrote 21 novels, including *Sweet Justice* and *Saint Mike*, named Notable Books by *The New York Times*, and *Nightfall*, chosen as the best foreign language crime novel published in Germany in 1999. His books were also published in Brazil, France, Great Britain, Japan and Russia.

"His play, *90 in 90*, premiered in 2004. He wrote three other full-length plays and several 10-minute plays. He was a Tennessee Williams Scholar at the 2005 Sewanee Writers' Conference.

"He worked at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School as director of development communications, and at Duke as director of development communications for Arts & Sciences and director of communications for the undergraduate college.

"His daughter by a previous marriage, Lily Stein Oster, is a doctoral student in the graduate division at Emory University."

Last year Jerry sent in a Class Note. His advice to future grads: "Be a generalist, not a specialist; study what interests you, not what's recommended. When and if you begin a career, be entirely ready to begin another."

*Requiescat in pace.*





## 1965

**Leonard B. Pack**  
leonard@packlaw.us

Back in those innocent days of yesteryear — on January 21, to be precise — when people could still meet each other in restaurants and other public places, I met **Dan Carlinsky, Mike Cook, Louis Goodman** and **Barry Levine** for lunch at Sidecar, an adjunct to P.J. Clarke's on Third Avenue at East 55th Street in Manhattan. No particular agenda, but an enjoyable bull session with plenty of jokes and laughter. Dan regaled us with a detailed history of the Columbia University Marching Band through its recent difficulties with the administration, subsequently patched over. We didn't think of taking a picture, which we surely would have done if we'd known all restaurants would be ordered to close a few weeks later (although the lack of a picture means that readers will be spared yet another image of your correspondent, after two of them ran in the Spring 2020 issue). I did ask Barry, the only medical person present, what he thought of the then-new stories about the coronavirus in China. Barry replied, "It won't be pretty."

As I write this in late March, New York City has become the place with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country. Los Angeles resident **Howard Matz** was moved by this to write a note to a few New Yorker classmates, and he has given me permission to share it with everyone here: "Hello, friends and fellow classmates. Jane and I hope you and your families are faring as well as circumstances could possibly permit. You live in a perilous place at a perilous time. May you continue to take good and effective care and may you come through this calamity safe and sound."

"I live in the geographic center of the City of Los Angeles. You would not know it these days. It is as safe for youngsters to ride their bikes in the middle of the street as it was for my friends and me 70-plus years ago in the small town I grew up in."

"We, too, are experiencing the direct impact of seclusion. Two of our sons and their wives and their collective three children (one of whom is only 5 months old) are

off-limits. For our benefit, initially, they have declined to visit or be visited. Our third son is a single dad with a daughter who is only 3 months old. They need and receive daily, direct help from us, so that is the limit of our social lives. We are very fortunate to be there for them, however, and we are feeling fine. Let's stay in touch."

As the contagion spread, I thought about calling **Michael Tapper** GSAS'66, PS'70, our class's stellar infectious disease expert. But I soon found out from **Allen Brill, Don Bachman** and others that Michael died on March 6, 2020, after an extended struggle with illness. Here is an excerpt of *The New York Times's* March 10 obituary: "... Dr. Tapper graduated from Columbia College and Columbia medical school and trained in internal medicine at Harlem Hospital, and in infectious disease at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He served for many years as Chief of Infectious Disease at Lenox Hill Hospital where he also established and directed an early New York State-sponsored center for AIDS research and care. Dr. Tapper sat on several CDC committees, was past president of the Society of Hospital Epidemiologists and a member of a number of New York State and New York City Departments of Health task forces, and was a frequent speaker at national and international HIV and epidemiology meetings. He was uncompromising in his advocacy for patients under his care and served as a role model for successive generations of house-staff. Apart from his medical activities, Dr. Tapper was extremely committed to Columbia College, a dedicated participant in its fencing team as an undergraduate, and was a lifelong lover of music and supporter of the Metropolitan Opera. He is survived by his sister, Helaine Gold. Dr. Tapper will be extremely missed by friends and colleagues. Memorial to be held at Columbia University at a later date. Donations in his name can be made to Columbia College, undergraduate school."

In my occasional interactions with Mike over the years, I was struck by his seriousness. I got to see an exception to this several years ago, when he arrived with a bunch of former fencing team members at a restaurant in my apartment build-

ing, which is not far from Columbia. He was smiling and radiantly happy to be hanging out with his fellow fencers, and it was a pleasure to see him that way.

Through *CCT*, just before the deadline for this column, I got news from his daughter, Chaya Cooper, that **Michael Cooper** died on February 27, 2019, in Jerusalem. Chaya wrote: "Michael made a name for himself at the College as an exceptional intellect, and graduated in just three years while earning a Regents merit-based scholarship reserved for the brightest medical students in New York. After completing his residency at NewYork-Presbyterian, Michael served as a captain in the U.S. Army, and practiced radiology for 34 years at NYU Health + Hospitals/Coler and Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in NYC."

"Michael was a lover of corny jokes, and was generally a man of simple tastes and pleasures — with the exception of foreign travel. He had a passion for traveling to exotic and off-the-beaten-path locales, and traveled all over the world on his own with just a small suitcase filled with the bare essentials and his supply of kosher food."

"A native New Yorker, he moved to Israel shortly before his death to be closer to his children and grandchildren. Michael is survived

"Memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Therapy Development Institute ([als.net/donate](https://als.net/donate)) or American Friends of Zichron Ruth Kollet, 109 Bayit Vegan St., Jerusalem, 9642621, Israel."

I'd welcome any reminiscences from friends of our class's two departed medical Michaels to include in a future column, together with news of how you are coping with the pandemic. In the three months between my writing this column and its appearance in *CCT*, our world will have changed enormously.

## 1966

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

From **Mark L. Levine** JRN'79: "A 50th anniversary edition of Mark L. Levine's *The Tales of Hoffman: From the Trial of the Chicago 8/7*, an edited version of the Chicago 7 conspiracy trial transcript that was published 10 days after the trial ended, is being republished in September. The original book, which Mark conceived and coedited, sold more than 170,000 copies. The new edition is scheduled to appear at the same time as Aaron Sorkin's movie *The Trial of the Chicago 7*. Although the movie is not

**Core Haiku**

Iliad assigned,  
Our learning launched in week one.  
Still sailing. New shores.

— Rick Silverblatt '66

by his five children, Chaya Cooper, Shifra (Dov Ber) Apfelbaum, Eliezer (Batsheva) Cooper-Gluck, Hindy (Mark) Ginsberg and Boruch (Sari) Cooper; three stepchildren, Devorah (Ben) Schochet, Avi (Teri) Pollack and Serena (Efraim) Pollack-Kacenelenbogen; his sister, Phyllis Wertheimer; brother, David (Judy) Cooper; brother-in-law, Steve Rich; 36 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Miriam (née Stein), in 2007, and younger sister Joan Rich in 2005.

based on Mark's book, Sorkin has written an introduction to the new edition, which has been retitled to match the movie's name.

"In recent years, Mark has been an adjunct professor at Baruch College's Zicklin School of Business and Cardozo School of Law. An experienced voter protection attorney, he plans to be doing a lot of that this fall in an effort to help make Trump a one-term President."

On March 25, **Neal Hurwitz** reported: "In self-quarantine since March 15. Very quiet here, across the street (115th Street between Broad-





way and Riverside Drive) from the empty Morris A. Schapiro Hall.

"Indeed, it is the strangest time here in New York, N.Y. — even more so than the '69 blackout and 9-11. My fiancée, Soraya Zuluaga, from Medellín, and I are next door to the Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life (Bob Kraft '63 was my mentor when I was class officer our freshman year); I helped with raising money for the center and the great Jerusalem stone exterior! Peter Samton was the architect and former Clinton White House counsel Bernie Nussbaum '58 was a major donor. We are down the road from Grace Gold Way, which is the west side of Broadway, between 115th and 116th Streets. It is named for Grace Gold BC'82, who was killed in her freshman year by a falling stone from 601 W. 115th.

"I have been here since September 1963 (with **Alan Geller**, **Tom DeWitt** and **Johnny Akula**, and then **Billy Hurwitz '67** and **Wally Furman '67**), after freshman year in 1001A New Hall with

course. We are all hanging in as best we can these days."

If you would like to stay connected to classmates during this time, please consider sending a Class Note to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

## 1967

**Albert Zonana**  
[az164@caa.columbia.edu](mailto:az164@caa.columbia.edu)

No news this time, but best wishes for the health and safety of the Class of 1967 and your families. Be well, and let's stay connected.

## 1968

**Arthur Spector**  
[arthurspector@gmail.com](mailto:arthurspector@gmail.com)

Greetings, classmates. I hope you are all doing well and staying safe.

I got a wonderful note from **Tony Kao** in February: "I thought you



George Ting '68 (left) and Tony Kao '68 in the entry foyer of Tokyo's Gloria House, named for Ting's mother, at the opening ceremony in December.

"It was a wonderful experience to work with Grace and George, a friend, one-time roommate and classmate, as my client, and I'm very pleased to have been able to put my resources together to bring this endeavor to a successful and happy completion."

CCT received the following from Christopher Phillips about the passing of his brother **David Phillips** LS'74: "David F. Phillips died on March 26, 2020, in San Francisco of a confluence of health issues. He was 75. He graduated from Penn Law School (1971) before returning to Columbia's former School of Library Service for an M.S.

"Attention, Columbia historians! In his autobiography, which appears on his website, [Radbash](#), David has written extensively and in great detail about his years at Columbia College (1963–68) and Library School (1973–74). At the College, he was active in the 1968 student

real career, which was as a scholar of heraldry. His interest in flags and coats of arms dated from earliest childhood, and he became one of the world's foremost experts. At his home in San Francisco, he assembled one of America's leading collections of heraldry books, atlases and first-day covers as part of a vast library that ranged from typography and design to specialized dictionaries. He was a trustee of the Flag Heritage Foundation in America and was one of only two writers to be 'craft' members of The Society of Heraldic Arts in Britain.

"David's books included (as author), *Emblems of the Indian States* (2011) and *The Double Eagle* (2014); and as editor and lead contributor *Japanese Heraldry and Heraldic Flags* (2018). All three instantly became the definitive works on these subjects. At the time of his death he had completed the manuscript and design for a book about the heraldic work of

### Core Haiku



No trigger warnings,  
Coddling, safe spaces, jargon,  
Dogma. Knowledge reigned.

— Steve Schwartzman '67

**Phil Cohen**, Arne Jensen '67 and **Jimmy Smolev**, across from **Marc Kusnetz**, **Ray Rizzuti**, **Jim Gertz** and **Ronald Vincent Bryant**.

"My daughter has been teaching English in Hanoi; I do not like having my family so spread out all over the place, especially now! Family are in New York, Florida, New Mexico, Illinois, Vermont, North Carolina, California, Colombia, Israel, the United Kingdom, Ibiza and more."

Neal wrote back on April 9 with sad news: "**Steve Steiner** GSAS'67 has just died in NYC from COVID-19. Steve and I shared a love of history; I had many chats with him since 1962 — 58 years. Steve was out of Kew Gardens and Forest Hill H.S. His children, Andrea and David, are Facebook friends with me; Andrea's memory of her dad was featured in *The New York Post*. Steve was a writer/editor and director of PR for the Orthodox Union. Very, very sad, of

might be interested to know that **George Ting**; his sister, Grace; and I had been working for a few years on a project in Tokyo, named Gloria House in honor of his mother. It was completed in May 2019.

"The project is situated off the much-coveted avenue in Shibuya Omotesando, and the five-story building is mixed use, with commercial on the ground floor, the Gloria Ting Center on the second floor, residential on the third floor and George's pied-a-terre on the fourth/fifth floor duplex penthouse, with a roof deck.

"The dedication and opening of the Gloria Ting Center was held on December 7, and was lucky for me, as I was traveling through Tokyo that week from Shanghai. I was heading back to our new home in Sudbury, Mass., in metro-west Boston, where I moved to from Seattle in June.

### Core Haiku



John D. Rosenberg  
Shaped my Core in '63  
'09, shaped my son's

— George J. Leonard '67

strike, and he started and ran the Vietnam-War-era student draft counseling center. This is a valuable, detailed first-person account.

"For David, the practice of law (which he did on his own part-time schedule with a white-shoe San Francisco firm) was a sidelight to his

Polish-born artist Arthur Szyk. Most recently, he was the editor and compiler of *Psychedelic Refugee: The League for Spiritual Discovery, the 1960s Cultural Revolution, and 23 Years on the Run*, the memoirs of Rosemary Woodruff Leary (Timothy's wife), to be published next winter.





"His writing went beyond scholarship to poetry, children's stories, travelogues, essays, biography and autobiography. Other byways in his life included being a radio and television broadcaster on Cape Cod and an English teacher in Taiwan. His spiritual explorations were informed by early psychedelic experiences with LSD, and these led him eventually to Buddhism and veneration of the Hindu god Ganesha.

"Learning of David's death, one of his friends remarked, 'David won, hands down, the *Reader's Digest* "World's Most Interesting Person" award.'

"To learn more about David's life (in his autobiography) and the scope of his wide-ranging and astonishingly original thought, explore his [website](#). The drop-down menus alone are astonishing. You could spend a year on that site and not cover everything, and it would be time well spent."

## 1969

**Nathaniel Wander**  
nw105@columbia.edu

Freelance translators of French, German and Dutch for the past three decades, **Henry Jackson** and his wife now live in Suffern, N.Y. Henry went on to a graduate degree in German, spent three years in Germany and returned to teach German in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Germany, you might recollect, predicted its way to victory in the 2010 FIFA World Cup through the "motivational" coaching of an eight-legged cephalopod, Paul the Octopus — an act of such deuced wickedness as England shall never forget!

After weathering Vietnam as a conscientious objector teaching in Bedford-Stuyvesant, **John Van D. Lewis** acquired an anthropology Ph.D. from Yale. Fieldwork on constraints to the Green Revolution in Mali and teaching at Howard University carried John into a career in rural and agricultural development with USAID. Since retirement, John has continued to work on "climate smart" or "regenerative" agriculture in Africa.

Poet, historian and demythologizer **Hilton Obenzinger** retired from Stanford as associate director of the Chinese Railroad Workers

in North America Project, which produced a wealth of English and Chinese books and websites, photos and oral histories, archaeological digs, curricula and even an oratorio. The high point of this work was the huge attendance at last year's 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike ceremony in Utah.

For those who haven't seen John Ford's *The Iron Horse* (1924) lately, the spike joined California's Central Pacific and Union Pacific into the First Transcontinental Railroad. Hilton says Ford had to employ Native Americans to play Chinese workers on account of 1882's Chinese Exclusion Act, which remained in force until 1943. Irony is too American to ever die.

Hilton was especially tickled at the praise lavished on the Chinese workers by the kinds of politicians who previously would have despised them.

**Andy Bronin** continues to enjoy practicing dermatology, his chosen path since he completed medical training in the late '70s. He shares that he's particularly proud of his son Luke, overwhelmingly reelected to a second term as mayor of Hartford, Conn. Andy attributes the careers of national politicians from **Judd Gregg** on one side to **Jerry Nadler** on the other — as well as **Jon Schiller's** service as a Columbia trustee — to "the strength of the Core Curriculum."

Seems a lot to lay on Plato's shoulders, no matter how broad they may have been.

Andy adds, "I miss **Mark Drucker!**" I concur.

**Renee Chinquapin** has been thinking of three friends — Bob Raterman, Wiley Webb and Jeff Sokolov — who "wore the blue beanie but not the mortarboard," wondering where they are now and whether anyone else remembers them.

I was working with **Neal Flomenbaum**, director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at NYC's Weill Cornell Medicine, to produce a note for this issue. Understandably, it was sidetracked by a bit of a virus outbreak. Neal's contribution will be included in the Fall issue.

**John Schuster**, a historian and philosopher of science at the University of Sydney, and a resident of Australia since 1980, remembers **Michael Oberman** well. Both were from Hewlett, N.Y. (Long Island); John says, "We had been in the same

classes since around fourth grade." John was shocked to hear of Michael's sudden death last fall, and especially as a prior commitment kept him away from the 50th reunion, he is grateful he had been able to speak to Michael and his wife at length in New York a few years back at their 50th high school reunion.

It's only from Class Notes that I knew Michael. When I read in the [Winter 2019–20 issue](#) that he had passed away, I wrote to *CCT* offering to take on the class correspondent role, frankly, without one-quarter knowing what I might

about the toll it will take so I hope that all of you will be reading this column in good health. Please stay connected to the College.

I received a very nice note from **Jim Kunen**, which had a lovely tribute to **David Lehman** and David's recently published memoir. Jim writes, "Longtime reader, first-time writer: Perusing our Class Notes, I learned that David Lehman had written a book called [One Hundred Autobiographies](#), a memoir of cancer — sort of. I bought it, read it, underlined it like crazy, photocopied bits for friends (fair use) and returned to

**Core Haiku**

**Civilization**  
The journey is never done  
Join us for the trip

— Don Brophy '69

be getting into. As the man who jumped off the Empire State Building said passing the 63rd floor, "So far, so good." I expect I'll know by the end of the year whether I'll be thanking Michael for keeping the chair warm all these years, or be going around grumbling *sotto voce*: "Curse you, Red Baron!"

Since Tim O'Brien's 1990 story cycle *The Things They Carried*, "things they carried" has become a metonym for the meaningful experiences people bear with them when they set out from "home" into a future guaranteed to astound them. Several of us have thought to pose questions in this column about how what we brought away from Columbia has shaped our lives over the long course. This season's question is almost too timely; maybe it will have shaken out when the call is made for Fall issue submissions: How has what you carried away from Columbia affected your weathering of the COVID-19 pandemic?

## 1970

**Leo G. Kailas**  
lkailas@reitlerlaw.com

The COVID-19 virus is wreaking havoc on the world, and I hope that we all survive it stronger. I worry

it frequently for 1) the articulation of things I felt but couldn't say and 2) tips on high art, classical music and serious literature that sound really worth checking out, before I check out.

"Thank you, **Leo Kailas**, for faithfully relaying our classmates' news year after year, and thank you, **David Lehman**, for your wise and thoroughly enjoyable book. Be well, all."

Thank you, Jim, who is himself the author of *The Strawberry Statement*, written about the uprising at Columbia in 1968.

I would second Jim's statement about David's tips on high art, classical music (and not-so-classical music, like Bob Dylan), and literature and poetry. I also recommend that you subscribe to David's publication *The Best American Poetry*, which is filled with interesting articles. Writing about the current COVID-19 epidemic, David refers back to the 10 plagues God visited on Egypt, the plague Oedipus brought on Thebes when he committed the twin sins of parricide and incest, and the bubonic plague and notes that we were as unprepared for this plague as we were for the attack on Pearl Harbor. In a hopeful note, David reminds us that we recovered from Pearl Harbor and will likely survive COVID-19. He also cites the line from W.H. Auden's poem



September 1, 1939, “We must love one another or die.”

I received another nice note from Bill Stark '69, asking me to pass on regards to **Michael Stern**, mentioned in the Spring 2020 column. Bill writes, “[Michael] was my roommate my junior (his sophomore) year. He worked in my hometown after his junior year. He was an usher in my wedding in 1969.”

Michael, please reach out to Bill at [william.stark@slu.edu](mailto:william.stark@slu.edu).

**Dov Zakheim** became a senior Defense Department official during the George W. Bush years in the White House. Dov has agreed to place me on his mailing list for his publication on national security issues, saying, “I have a rather large mailing list and would gladly add you to it if you like. I write about [national security matters](#).”

I highly recommend following Dov's commentary if you have the time.

Professor **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS'91, who keeps me informed about the publication of his books and articles in numerous magazines and literary journals, sent me a note about the publication of his book *The Restoration of Man: C.S. Lewis and the Continuing Case Against Scientism*, which received a nice writeup in *Le Figaro*.

## 1971

**Lewis Preschel**  
[l.a.preschel@gmail.com](mailto:l.a.preschel@gmail.com)

**Mark Davies** LAW'75 shares that four years ago, after 22 years serving the public, he retired from his post as executive director of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, the city's ethics board. The new phase of his life involves studying toward a master of divinity degree at the Union Theological Seminary, right near Columbia. Last semester, instead of schoolwork, Mark visited the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, along with his clinical pastoral education instructor, to work with the LGBTQ community. Mark will pursue his field education with a prison reform group in Westchester next year. He took two years of New Testament Greek in seminary school, which he says tested his soul at his age, but proved to be the most rewarding

and difficult academic experience of his life.

May I add, knowing what we all lived through during our undergraduate days, that is saying something.

**Charles Ferguson** writes, “In 2017, I returned to my boarding school in Massachusetts for my 50th class reunion. I took my wife, Yoko, with me. We stopped in New York City on the way and visited the Columbia campus. The deli that I worked at, Mama Joy's, was gone. The taxicab company I drove for, whose garage was on 125th street, had vanished.

“The headmaster of my prep school was a close friend and college buddy of Henry Coleman '46, dean of admissions at Columbia. That fact sealed my fate in 1967, so I came to New York City and the College.”

Charles explains further how life leads us on intriguing paths: “I studied music, and in particular, I remember my senior year I lived in a nice apartment just one block east of College Walk. My music professor was Nicholas England. He lived in the same building. To me, Professor England appeared larger than life. He taught ethnomusicology at Columbia and Harvard simultaneously. He was always perfectly attired, old-school tie and all. For my graduate school choices, Professor England urged me to apply to a school in the west. He was leaving Columbia for a position as dean of music at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, Calif. I followed his lead to California, where I reside now. When I first saw Professor England in Valencia, he was in a Hawaiian shirt, shorts and sandals, asking all of us to call him ‘Nick.’

“After CalArts, I moved to San Francisco. My sister was at UC Berkeley and had a part-time job at Stanford working for a linguistics professor named Charles Ferguson. While on campus at Stanford, I saw the job posting for a classical guitar instructor. Eagerly, I applied for the position, and I am happy to say that I am celebrating my 46th year on the music faculty at Stanford. I look forward to celebrating another 50th reunion very soon, this time at Columbia with my College classmates.”

This set of notes is not optimally voluminous. Please send regards to the class and let us know how you are doing, where life led you and what you are doing. I am writ-

ing this column from New Jersey and it is the month of March. I do not know what the future holds for our demographic/age group. I hope everyone has remained healthy and calm during this time of crisis. Please be safe, keep your social distance, wash your hands often and be careful about public surfaces, especially metallic ones. Remember that human vectors and fomites (inanimate objects that we touch, like clothing, utensils, furniture, boxes and even the mail) can carry the virus and that it is easily transmissible and long-lived on surfaces. Cover your cough and stand back from friends. When you come back to your home from outside — from exercise, a walk or a necessary trip for food — wash your hands immediately. Don't bring the virus into your home with packages, and so forth.

Everyone be well, and stay well, so that whenever our next reunion takes place, as many of us as possible can take part. We are the Columbia College Class of 1971. The '71ers have been through worse and so the best is on the horizon for us.

## 1972

**Paul S. Appelbaum**  
[pappel1@aol.com](mailto:pappel1@aol.com)

As I write this column, the University is closed, Morningside Heights is largely deserted and New York City is the epicenter in the United States for the COVID-19 epidemic. All classes and meetings with students have moved online; grades will be pass/fail; Class Day and Commencement have been changed to virtual ceremonies. A small number of food stores and take-out restaurants are open, but traffic is light and the city buses that go past are nearly empty.

Even in situations that call for maximum solidarity and mutual support, it seems as though there are always people who just want to make other people's lives more difficult. With classes using Zoom to draw professors and students together, the phenomenon of the moment is “Zoombombing”: hackers interrupting classes with offensive content. As *Spectator* described one such episode in an economics class, hackers “disrupted

the class for about six minutes, playing audio containing racial slurs and inappropriate content, hurled insults at the professor, and later called a participant a racial slur.” Helping to combat these threats is **Steven Bellovin**, the Percy K. and Vida L. W. Hudson Professor of Computer Science at Columbia and one of the country's leading experts on computer security. He spoke with *Spectator* to advise his colleagues on simple approaches to protect the security of their online classes.

Before this all began, **Alex Abella** reached out to connect with me on LinkedIn (hint: you can do that, too). After graduation, Alex moved to San Francisco, where he became a TV news producer, writer and reporter; was part of a group that won a news writing Emmy; and was nominated for an individual Emmy for best breaking news story. Alex moved to Los Angeles in the 1980s. His legal thriller, *The Killing of the Saints*, was a *New York Times* notable book and was optioned by Paramount Pictures, which commissioned Alex to write the screenplay. The sequels, *Dead of Night* and *Final Acts*, were published soon thereafter, winning critical praise. Alex's nonfiction work includes *Soldiers of Reason: The RAND Corporation and the American Empire*, a study of the world's most influential think tank. Alex is married and lives with his wife and children in the suburbs of Los Angeles.

**Michael Mobley** BUS'76 is also now a LinkedIn buddy. Since he earned an M.B.A., he has worked in strategic planning, finance, marketing and operations that facilitate growth, market share and profitability for businesses in numerous industries. He is managing director of VJM and Legacy C Suite, and before that was managing partner of Impetus Solutions, a consulting firm founded in 2014 that focused on value creation for small businesses. Michael was also an adjunct professor of entrepreneurship at Howard Community College and an adjunct assistant professor in management and international business at Loyola University of Maryland. Michael now lives in the Greater Phoenix area.

I hope that by the time you read this, the worst of the pandemic will have passed and that you all will have come through it unscathed. We all look forward to happier times.



## 1973

Barry Etra  
betra1@bellsouth.net

These are “Notes in the Time of Corona.” May we have no more “interesting times” like these for several millennia.

**Fred Abramowitz** was the flag bearer at the 2019 NYC Marathon Opening Ceremony, as one of the few who ran the first one in '76 (“Probably disappointed old radical friends who hoped I'd carry it upside down,” he says). His new book, *Travels in Africa: A Year by Land Rover Through the Great Continent*, was published in the spring; all proceeds go to charity, so pick it up!

**Ravi Venkateswaran** lives in Mill Creek, Wash.; his interest in geology has taken him to “lots of places,” he says. He has partly retired after many years in India and a final assignment in Nigeria, is on the board of his former boarding school in Colorado and advises a group in Nigeria for new projects. He conveys his best wishes to old colleagues from Carman and Hamilton!

**Erik Bergman** retired from a high-tech PR firm in 2017 after a 35-year career in journalism, PR and advertising. He has been pursuing

Steve is in touch with **Rick Blank** and **Frank Dermody**; he and Rick meet in Nyack, N.Y., for dinner several times a year. Frank is the minority leader in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and they meet in the city every so often.

Hope y'all are well and stay well. Hasta.

## 1974

Fred Bremer  
f.bremer@ml.com

The “stay in place” order imposed on many of us this spring did more than fight the coronavirus. It also gave us a glimpse of what we might face in retirement. At first many might have enjoyed the extra time outside the office as a welcome opportunity to spend more time with the grandkids, do some gardening or go on a leisurely bike ride. But soon we realized that we missed the camaraderie of our work colleagues and the ability to get together with friends. We had a lot of time but lacked a plan for how to enjoy it.

As our “golden years” progress, we will also probably see many of our close friends move to warmer locales in the sunbelt or bucolic places like Martha's Vineyard or

been dusting off some collected cookbooks that I hope to (finally) use and am investigating where I will be able to take yoga classes or oil painting instruction once retirement arrives. Preparing for the future seems like a good way to take advantage of this abrupt interruption of my work routine.

The coronavirus hasn't stopped classmates from “getting together.” I heard word of a Zoom video cocktail party in April hosted by some classmates who were part of the *Spectator* staff: **Peter Budeiri** (an architect who lives in Irvington, N.Y.), **Richard Briffault** (a professor at the Law School who lives in Manhattan), **Charles Tiefer** (a professor at University of Baltimore School of Law who lives in Chevy Chase, Md.) and Gail Robinson BC'74 (who was the editor our senior year). Without the virus causing the growing popularity of video conferencing, it seems unlikely this group would have managed to have their cocktail party!

Two Facebook notes told us of two new grandchildren of classmates. **Barry Gruber** wrote, “In these dark and scary days, it is great to be reminded in a very real way about the circle of life. I am excited and happy to let my friends know that my son, Mitch (and his wife, Amy), had a baby boy at the end of April. I am looking forward to a long-distance bris!”

Dr. **Steve Blumenthal** (who is a semi-retired pediatrician in Portland, Maine) says his daughter Kelsey gave him his first grandchild in March.

A long email came in from **David Katz** (now back in the United States after a 45-year hiatus). David received a Eureka J. Kellett Fellowship in 1974 and went to Oxford. After earning two degrees, he joined the faculty at Tel Aviv University. He writes, “Apart from sabbatical years in Oxford (five), Istanbul (two) and Princeton (one), I was a professor of history in Tel Aviv for 41 years. Three children and one grandchild later, I found myself facing the compulsory retirement age of 68.”

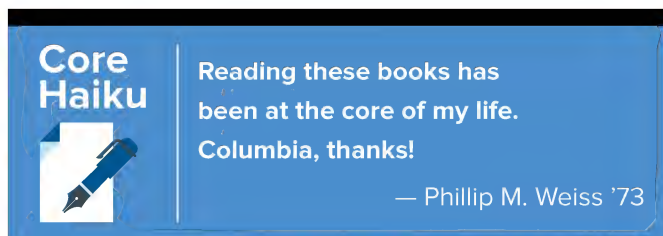
David is now a professor of history at Brandeis (outside of Boston) and director of the History of Ideas Program. His wife, Amy Singer, was also teaching at Tel Aviv and now chairs Islamic studies at Brandeis.

He writes, “Returning to the U.S. after all these years has been interesting. Back to speaking English on a daily basis, I find that ‘grass’ is now called ‘weed’ and is legal. All ‘requests’ have been turned into ‘asks.’ People don't call, they ‘reach out.’ It's all very confusing ....”

A stone's throw away from Brandeis is Belmont, Mass., where **Stuart Offner** lives. He is a commercial real estate and real estate private equity attorney at Mintz (formerly Mintz, Levin et al.). Stuart has managed to get his kids to move back to be near him (dreaming of grandkids?). Son Ted (35) moved back from San Francisco with wife Tracy when he left Microsoft for a position at Sonos (the high def speaker company). Olivia (32) moved back to Boston after a 10-year career in communications in NYC and is now a VP of media and communication at State Street Bank. Sophia (26) has graduated from BU Law and is now a corporate associate at Ropes & Gray in its Boston office. Wife Susan is at home full-time after retiring from a career being assistant treasurer at MIT (where she managed special investments and funds).

Seventeen years ago, **Michael Fixel** (who lives in Jacksonville, Fla.) joined with daughter Juliet to form BeaTPAC, a summer camp for kids in the first through ninth grades. It celebrates the performing arts (singing, dancing and acting). Daughters Ava and Leia also are there, as camp directors. This year they are continuing the camp, but added BeaTPAC To Go, which has virtual classes for kids who are forced to stay at home due to the virus. (Michael says, “I suggested ‘BeaTPAC Goes Viral,’ but it got shot down!”) Michael is also president of Parallel Universe Theater Resources. His play, *Freefall Frostbite*, will be returning to NYC this year for what he hopes will be a 10-year run.

With great sadness, I must tell you that **Carl Yirka** passed away on April 4, 2020, at his home in Stratford, Vt., almost two years after being diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumor (a rare aggressive cancer). This was the same month he retired from a 30-year career at the Vermont Law School Library (most recently as its director). Carl came to Columbia from Ohio and dreamed of becoming a Slavic language professor. He some-



his passion for birding from Alaska to Ecuador; he volunteers at Portland Audubon and leads trips to birding hotspots there. Since travel is “currently unwise,” Erik does daily walks locally and notes that it’s “sobering to know that our peer group is high-risk; when and how did *that* sneak up on us?” He signs off, wishing “Peace and health to all.”

**Steve Pellino** writes in (finally!) from Ridgefield, N.J., where he’s been an attorney for 40 years, also serving as borough attorney. He’s single now (after a few tries) and has a wonderful daughter and son.

Maine. Instead of seeing them once a week, it may become once or twice a year. The alternative is to plan and to develop relationships with new and old friends who are likely to be wherever we plan to be and are interested in the activities we look forward to pursuing. It is also a good idea to accumulate some extra frequent flyer miles so we can see friends who have roamed far!

The above is not meant to be a “downer” on retirement. Rather, it is what I have been thinking about as the weeks at home roll on and my eventual retirement date (no plans yet!) grows nearer. I have even



how ended up going to the School of Library Science at Case Western Reserve and later got a law degree. Carl leaves behind his wife, Micki; four children; and three grandchildren.

There you have it. As most of us are trapped at home by the coronavirus, some are celebrating new grandchildren or holding virtual cocktail parties. Others are winding down their careers while others don't seem to want to stop. Send in word of how you are adapting to our strange new world and what your plans are!

## 1975

**Randy Nichols**  
rcn2day@gmail.com

Class Notes will be back in the Fall issue; until then, stay healthy and be well.

## 1976

**Ken Howitt**  
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Music is back! Need it desperately. To set the mood, I have Billie Holiday performing "Solitude," which seems appropriate.

Isolation is not a pleasant task, but I have been making the best of it. I dusted off my late wife's sewing machine (Singer Stylist Model 833), learned how to thread it and wind the bobbin, and then went to town making masks for the family and friends. I am down to 30 minutes for production time for each mask. Thank goodness someone posted directions on YouTube for the Singer Stylist Model 834, or I would have had only a dust-free sewing machine for display.

I also decided to go full-in on Zoom. I have been joined on a few calls by classmates: **Rich Rohr**, **Den- nis Goodrich**, **Jon Kushner**, **Tiberio Nascimento**, **Rich Feldman** and **George Munoz** are among the attendees. Aside from the Class of '76 calls, I have hosted some WKCR sports department and family Zoom get-togethers as well. I also have a standing call with a BC'76 classmate who lives in Egypt. We have been regularly talking for over an hour each week, and it certainly makes me feel less isolated. It is very interest-

ing to share perspectives on isolation from halfway around the world.

Rich, Jon and George are all in the medical field, and their perspectives on the crisis are very interesting. I received an email from another doctor, **Brian Smith**, who is the head of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Cooper University Health Care Trauma Center in Camden, N.J. Brian summed it up this way: "Obviously crazy times. Life continues to be an adventure. Tell everyone stay safe."

**Michael Musto** is also using Zoom. Michael was the longtime nightlife columnist for *The Village Voice*. He reports, "I've found a whole new world of connection on Zoom. I have my [private] Movie Club there, and I'm even doing interviews there. *Inside Edition* contacted me to be a commentator for a story, then put that on hold, but they're now going to interview me on Zoom."

**Augustinus Ong PH'91** is in New Hampshire at the Division of Public Health Services, where he says, "We are dealing with the COVID-19 health crisis. Please note that all of our public health service folks are doing the utmost to provide a unified command and guidance to our citizens, to maintain all of our emergency response capabilities and deliver medical services to our patients. I am glad to be part of our statewide teams and with our federal partner agencies working together to 'flatten the COVID-19 curve.' It remains [to be] very hard work in the coming months for everyone. I wish you and your family, and our beloved Columbia College, a safe journey through this crisis."

I heard in early April from **Joe Graif BUS'78**; he is in the middle of selling his house in Virginia. Did not get any details, but I hear from Joe often and will fill in the blanks next time.

I do get those kinds of emails a lot — with few details, but good info. Our reunion head honcho, **Steve Davis LAW'79**, emailed the following: "Crazy times. I'm working 8:00 a.m.–11:30 p.m. seven days a week on client emergencies."

Another lawyer, the esteemed **John Connell**, emailed to ask me for my cell number. I replied immediately, and he replied, as well: "Fine. Just catching up. Talk soon."

Well, John, I am still waiting for that call. Kind of reminds me of my dating successes in college.

Columbia shut down and our class had one event casualty — the third annual Dr. Saul and Dorothy Kit Film Noir Festival, which was scheduled for the last weekend of March. As previously recounted, **Gordon Kit** is responsible for this great weekend of viewing. So, I have saved the last update for him, which I received in early April (just to give you a time frame for his narrative):

"Safe and sound here in Washington, D.C. — not much has changed. I'm still in my retirement routine of reading, watching movies, gardening, playing with and walking the dog, and cycling, though I now go to the grocery store at 7:00 a.m., when almost no one is there. The only change is I'm not going on any trips/adventures, having returned from India in early February before the world started sheltering in place — i.e., COVID-19 was only hitting China at the time.

"This year's Kit Noir Film Festival was canceled due to COVID-19. We will probably run the same program/speakers/films that we planned to run in 2020 in March 2021, since that is basically all planned out and requires only minor tweaking.

"My bike trip in mid-May in Israel was also canceled, owing in part that the trip is eight days, and Israel currently has a 14-day self-quarantine policy for non-Israelis entering the country. I was also planning to spend two days in Petra after the bike trip."

As for me, I am watching the world go by the windows of my condo in Hoboken (building is circa 1900, so don't be too impressed). I still have furniture (mainly bookshelves) that I acquired or built for my first post-Columbia apartment on West 111th Street. I am cooking up a storm. Since I eat gluten-free, takeout is a challenge. I am also baking quite a bit. Still trying to learn to play the piano — you would figure that since I started at 9 years old, that I should be able to do it pretty well after 55 years. Not so, but it is great to have a piano for **Tiberio Nascimento's** visits.

My three children and one granddaughter are all close by, and if I want to drive by and wave, traffic is pretty light. Even the Cross Bronx Expressway to get to my daughter's Bronx apartment is moving pretty well.

I use an elliptical in my home for exercise (that's my story and I am

sticking to it!), and also still get on the bicycle occasionally to go around Hoboken and Hudson County in New Jersey.

However, I do miss Manhattan, theater and Morningside Heights. These updates, though, are inspirational. The world is still out there, and when it opens up again, the revised version will have to be learned, conquered and enjoyed. I cannot think of a better group to do that with than all of you. So, please, keep yourself and your family safe, be careful and stay in touch.

Most of all, to our classmates in the essential services during this crisis, I am sending you a big lion hug for what you are doing in your communities to protect all of us.

## 1977

**David Gorman**  
dgorman@niu.edu

In March, I found that I had some extra time to reflect and reminisce. One thing that came back to me about my college years was how fond I was of a phrase popular at the time: "You never expect the Spanish Inquisition!" That theme of stuff you don't expect feels a bit different now, especially given my age. I mean, I didn't expect to be in a risk group for the virus: Weren't at-risk people always my kids, or my parents, or anybody aside from me?

A number of classmates reached out around the time of the onset. I was very pleased to hear from my old friend **Harold Lehmann**. And however things may go from here, I hope that others will reach out as well.

**Don Hare** sent good wishes (which I second) to classmates in the New York metro area. About his own area he reports, "Houston is struggling with the virus but also with global oil and gas market issues, surrounding price per barrel. We are facing more bankruptcies, consolidations and closures in the oil patch."

**Jess Lederman BUS'80** is at work on "a novel that takes place in 1955, the year many in the Class of '77 were born." He adds that his previous novel, *Hearts Set Free*, continues to win critical praise.

Professor **Franco Mormando**, chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literature



at Boston College, has discovered that one of his past research topics, “the effect of the bubonic plague on Italian society, art and literature,” has suddenly gotten media buzz. He was interviewed for an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, “In Italy, Contagion Has Its Own Canon” (published in the Weekend Review for March 21–22). Not only that, this semester he is also teaching his seminar, “The Plague in Italy: From Boccaccio to Manzoni.”

Wow.

While he was on the topic, Franco mentioned the exhibition that he and **Thomas Worcester** co-curated in 2005 at the Worcester Art Museum, “[Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague, 1500–1800](#).”

Hope and healing to all classmates, and their friends and family.

## 1978

**Matthew Nemerson**  
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

No news this time. Be well, and let's stay connected. Send me a note for the Fall issue.

## 1979

**Robert Klapper**  
robertklappermd@aol.com

News from **Mark Fleischmann**: “After 45 years as a professional writer/editor, I have published my first work of fiction, the Kindle-only novella *Schwap and the Tomb of Diamonds*. I'm using a pseudonym, M.R.K. Walker, because if your name were Fleischmann, wouldn't you change it as soon as you had the chance? For more information, see [quietriverpress.com](#).”

**Tom Costigan** is senior developer for Promontory Interfinancial Network in Arlington, Va. He lives in Falls Church, Va., with his wife of 39 years, Lucy Buchness. Their son, Nolan, recently earned an M.S. in data analytics from George Mason University and is a contract administrator in Leidos's Department of Defense practice. Nolan recently became engaged to Miriam Roberts, targeting a wedding date in October (stay tuned). Tom continues in his role of chair of the Northern Virginia

contingent of Columbia's Alumni Representative Committee; he encourages all alumni to join ARC and interview future Columbians.

**Erik Swenson** LAW'82 reports that he finally makes good. After nearly 38 years of “Big Law,” practicing in the energy regulatory and commercial space, Erik became the director of the Pro Bono Institute's Law Firm Pro Bono Project in March. At PBI, his initial focus will be on harnessing available capacity within the legal community to tackle the increased demand for free and low-cost legal services stemming from the impact of COVID-19 around the globe. Speaking of COVID-19, Erik is joined in celebrating his new position by his wife, Kathy (a Freddie Mac compliance officer); his children, Sarah (a William & Mary senior), Andrew (an Indiana University freshman) and Amelia (a high school sophomore); and his rescue dog, Tipper (a Labrador Retriever — similar to a Labrador Retriever, but she keeps the ball when you throw it), all of whom are as of this writing respectively working, studying and lounging at home in a Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C., due to the virus. In his spare time, Erik enjoys astronomy, hiking, photography, sailing and tinkering, all of which, thankfully, are compatible with social distancing.

**Michael Daswick** says he has been reading and enjoying the column for a long time. He writes from Arizona: “My wife and I left SoCal decades ago and moved to Scottsdale, where I became involved in golf course and real estate development. That was fun but I traded it for even more fun and owned Scottsdale's busiest dog shop, a great joint called BellyRubz, for 12 years. Sold that a year ago and am now happy to report I'm finally putting my Columbia English degree to work. I'm a full-time novelist.

“For more than 40 years I've been writing behind the scenes, stockpiling pages. In the last year, I've published four books. My opus novel, *Chip Rock and the Fat Old Fart*, is based on characters from short stories that Professors Wallace Gray and Karl-Ludwig Selig ‘commissioned,’ back in the day. Professor Gray always encouraged me to take the Chip Rock stories and build them into a novel, and he finally got his wish. My fifth book is about Zin Mignon, a 13-year-old wonder-boy chef; it's

the third in the Zin series and will be published later this year. All this stuff is on [michaeldaswick.com](#) and all the book sites.

“While the non-academic memories along Broadway surpass anything I ever learned in a classroom, I have a favorite memory of being invited to join Professor Selig's colloquium my junior year. It was a big honor to take the venerable four-point class once a week, 6–10 p.m., with 10 dudes sitting around a big round table in a conference room next to Selig's office. The first week's book was *David Copperfield*. I'll never forget, the guy on my left lit up a pipe in the first five minutes, and the guy on my right lit up a bigger pipe. The night, to me, was a free-for-all of scholarly over-analysis; the next morning I skulked into Selig's office and, to his shock, I quit the colloquium. Selig tried to talk me out of it but I stuck to my guns and finally he says I'm in very good company — all by myself — because in all his years teaching the class, nobody has ever resigned but me. And if you knew Selig, I therefore gained his utmost respect.

“I've been married 30 years to Kim, who's a great wife and mom, and a nurse at the Mayo Clinic here. We have three terrific kids, and I'm lucky to be heavily involved in the children-with-special-needs community. If you're in Arizona, please say hello.”

**Daniel Matathias** also checked in to say he is reading and enjoying this column. We hope to hear his news soon.

**Robert C. Klapper**: “This Columbia memory comes courtesy of my 2-year-old grandson's animal picture book. After the customary pages of big cats, elephants and a hippopotamus, they got to birds. There was the eagle, the hawk, the buzzard and, off in the corner, a pheasant. The sight of this obscure bird in the corner of the page triggered a most enjoyable memory.

“In my freshman year I was a member of crew, where the rigorous training for the eight races that culminated at the end of the year involved both indoor and outdoor workouts. The famous ‘tanks’ housed in the basement of Low Library, where one could simulate rowing on the Harlem River during the dead of winter, were quite convenient and so was the ergometer machines at Levien Gymnasium. But the real exercise occurred near the boathouse

at Baker Field in the part of New York known as Spuyten Duyvil. I remember fondly the cobblestone roads next to Seaman and Dyckman Streets and what seemed like some of the oldest non-gentrified avenues in all of Manhattan. Training on the river was certainly a key part of practice, but before we got on the river there was a mandatory five-mile run before each practice.

“When I think back to the coaches I had during my time on freshman crew, it reminds me of Woody Allen's line, ‘Those who can't do, teach. And those who can't teach, teach gym.’ Anyway, it was on one of these mandatory five-mile runs that brings me back to the idea of a pheasant for this column.

“There was a park, I believe called Inwood Park, where most of the five-mile run took place. This park was so isolated, it remained untouched by even the early settlers and native Americans who lived in Manhattan. It was on this course one morning in running through this enchanted forest that I met a bird — a most beautiful bird. It quickly scampered out of my way. It was the most unusual wild bird I had ever seen. When I returned to the boathouse and asked the coach what kind of bird it was, he told me, ‘Oh, what you saw was a wild pheasant. They still thrive in this park.’ To this day I'm amazed that living in Manhattan, in 1975, was a bird so wild that even Margaret Mead BC 1923, GSAS 1929 and the Columbia anthropology department could forego their visits to Papua New Guinea looking for strange creatures from the past and plant themselves at the end of the IRT subway line — who knows what they might find in Inwood Park?

“It is funny to think that now, 45 years later, I'm pretty sure if I replicated my run and I did see a pheasant, he probably would be holding an iPhone!

“I hope this story sparks a fond memory in your mind as well. Roar, Lion, Roar!”

## 1980

**Michael C. Brown**  
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

As I write from the epicenter of pandemic, NYC, I am amazed at the



outpouring of kindness and goodwill that we have shown each other in these trying times. The calls, emails, texts and Zooms from classmates, family and friends have been amazing and greatly appreciated. No doubt our world will change, but I am optimistic that we will come out of this better than ever.

While we had a wonderful weekend planned for our 40th reunion, we'll have lots to look forward to at our 45th in 2025 instead! I cannot wait to see you all and share some good stories from our time on Morningside Heights. I thank the Reunion Committee — **Jeffrey Field, Van Gothner, Steve Kane, Pat DeSouza, Jim Gerkis and Neil Sader**, and Columbia College Fund staff member Michael Marino — for all their hard work and attention to our class. We did a straw poll of our favorite places; I hope this brings back some memories:

Best Bar: The West End  
 Best Bar below 110th: Cannon's Pub  
 Best Sandwich: Mama Joy's  
 Best Diner: Tom's Restaurant  
 Best Band: Needle Dik  
 Best Pizza: V&T  
 Best Dorm: Carman  
 Best Professor: Karl-Ludwig Selig  
 Best Sam Painting: *Elvis on the Moon*

It was great to see Dr. **George Yancopoulos** GSAS'86, PS'87 of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and **Bob Hariri** of Celularity on the front lines in the fight against the coronavirus. Both are developing cures and novel approaches on immunity.

Once again, hope to see you in the fall! Drop me a line.

## 1981

**Kevin Fay**  
 kfay0516@gmail.com

As this column is written, we are all dealing with the effects of the coronavirus and, as the class correspondent, I wish everyone good health; this, too, shall pass.

I heard from **Richard Baugh**, who in February became a grandfather of two (both girls and equally beautiful!). Richard has a daughter in Richmond, Va., and a son in Fort Lee, N.J. (his son graduated from Columbia and works at the Goldstein Lab at Columbia's

Institute for Genomic Medicine in Washington Heights). Richard is on the Harrisonburg, Va., City Council, finishing up his third term/12th year, and mulling over a fourth term. When not dealing with constituents, he practices law. Harrisonburg is an historic city and college town in the Shenandoah Valley (home to James Madison University, which two of my daughters attended — go Dukes!).

I also heard from Dr. **Rob Canning** PS'85, a professor of surgery at UMass Memorial Health Care. After P&S, Rob spent seven years at Montefiore (five in training, two as an assistant surgeon). He and his wife, Deval, then moved to Massachusetts. They have two sons, Samir '17, who is halfway through a Ph.D. in math from UC San Diego, and Krishna '20, who graduated with a degree in music. With two children attending Columbia, Rob and Deval became frequent visitors to NYC and are considering retiring to the Upper West Side (the changes to the neighborhood have been unbelievable; so much nicer now).

I also heard from **John DeNatale**. He and his wife, Mary Crowley BC'81, have logged more running miles than any couple I know (collectively, they've participated in more than 30 marathons!). For his 60th birthday, John and Mary ran the Paris Marathon, for the second time, along with friends from Brooklyn. They spent the week in France and had a wonderful time in both Paris and Biarritz. John's freshman-year roommate, **Jesse Davis**, is still a close friend and he and John ran the Brooklyn Half marathon together last year. (Imagine that, nearly 40 years later and still close friends with your roommate from Carman Hall!) John and Mary live in Park Slope and keep in touch with quite a few of their Columbia and Barnard classmates.

To close, please keep a safe distance from one another until the virus is over; now that you're working from home, don't forget to drop me a line for CCT (no excuses!).

## 1982

**Andrew Weisman**  
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Greetings, gentlemen. As I pen this latest set of Class Notes, we're now



Jesse Davis '81 (left) and John DeNatale '81 ran the 2019 Brooklyn Half marathon together.

approximately three months into the global pandemic. Such a sad and disconcerting time. On a personal note, I spent four days in the hospital in late March with COVID-19. I'm doing fine now, for which I'm very grateful! The staff of Saint Joseph Hospital here in Denver are extraordinary people. We should all be grateful for the sacrifices our nation's healthcare workers make. They are truly heroic people. Please take this danger seriously; stay safe and responsible.

On a brighter note, **Ken Gruber** checked in from sunny Florida, even though he hails from Toronto; he managed to get "stuck" there riding out the pandemic while keeping company with his 88-year-old (and fun-to-hang-out-with) mom. He wrote about it for the *Miami Herald*. It's a wonderful, heart-warming piece and [well worth a read](#).

After being a suit-and-tie hospitality marketing guy for 25-plus years, Ken (when not stuck in Florida) has been enjoying self-/semi-(un)employment, doing everything from selling vintage collectibles to leading bicycle tours in Toronto.

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the passing of our extraordinary classmate **Michael S. Friedman**. Michael was a lawyer, editor, teacher, publisher and poet, father to Henry and Joseph, and

husband of 20 years to Dianne Perry. He died peacefully at 59 on May 5, 2020, in Denver after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Michael was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from the Collegiate School and earned a B.A. in English from the College. After earning an M.A. in English literature from Yale in 1983, he graduated from Duke Law in 1986.

Michael first practiced in New York City, at Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts, and later at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. In 1995, he moved to Colorado and began his 25-year association with the Denver firm of Haligman and Lottner.

Michael was also a prolific writer and editor. He co-founded the influential literary journal *Shiny* (now archived at NYU), and authored several books of poetry and fiction. In 2015, a trio of his novels, *Martian Dawn & Other Novels*, was published, to great critical praise.

Michael was wickedly smart, had a wonderful sense of humor and was deeply loved by his wife, sons and a wide circle of friends. He is survived by his parents, Lester Friedman, of Great Barrington, Mass., and Sally Long, of New York City, and his sister, Deborah, of Atlanta.

I was fortunate to have spent time with Michael and Dianne, dining out and listening to live jazz.



Such a wonderful person. He'll be greatly missed.

If you have some time on your hands, and I suspect you do, take a few minutes and send along any sort of update you'd care to.

## 1983

**Roy Pomerantz**  
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I write this column knowing that many of you have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. At times like this, we are so fortunate to be members of the Columbia College community. College students are dealing with tremendous uncertainty. Some were able to return to their homes, while others had no choice but to remain on campus. The ability to support virtual education varies depending on a family's financial resources. It is our responsibility to guarantee that students can navigate the many challenges ahead with health insurance, summer jobs, rigorous academic courses and stress. We need to ensure students are able to take full advantage of the Core Curriculum and their Columbia experience as they begin their journey to become leaders and to change the world.

Columbia has been in the forefront of this pandemic. The Bubble at Columbia's Baker Athletics Complex at West 218th Street was converted into a field hospital for patients with mild COVID-19 symptoms. Dr. David D. Ho and his team of 25 scientists at Columbia's medical schools are aiming to develop therapies that will work not only against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 but also against a wide variety of coronaviruses that could infect people in the future. On a Zoom conference for the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors in April, Dean James J. Valentini spoke about the challenges Columbia faces with remote learning and the efforts he has made personally to address some of these challenges. Dean Valentini teaches a science class every spring, and his students this past year were from Europe, Asia and throughout the United States, he said. The time differences made it impossible to teach all his students during the normal 4 p.m. time slot. He and many other faculty members there-

fore agreed to teach their class twice a day. The CCAA board meeting included **Ed Joyce**, who stayed with his family in Amagansett during April, and **Steve Coleman**, who is in Boston but used a background of Butler Library for the meeting. Steve noted, "It was the closest I ever came to being in Butler."

My family has stayed in Manhattan throughout the pandemic. In early March, my wife, who is a physician, stopped going into her office in midtown and has been practicing telemedicine from home. My business has stayed open, as we supply essential medical items, including baby thermometers and health kits. While 98 percent of retail has been shuttered, several of my national customers supplying food and emergency products have remained open. Due to the scarcity of thermometers, our hotline has been busy 24/7 with inquiries about whether adults can use our baby thermometers (they can). Our overseas factory has advised us that thermometer orders worldwide are 400 percent higher than in previous years. Our number-1-selling item last week was infant bandana bibs. Our suspicion is people are not only using them for their babies, but also extending them for adult use.

I also participated in a Columbia Fund Development Council Zoom meeting in April. It was clear to me that my family's experience in NYC has not been shared by some people in other parts of the United States. We hear the constant din of sirens. The streets are desolate, and it is eerie to walk around the Upper East Side with so few stores and restaurants open. We are one of the only families still occupying our building. The garage in my building closed. We were still riding our bikes around the loop in Central Park when the tents went up, to serve as temporary morgues. At that point, my wife and I discouraged the kids from going to Central Park any longer and our primary refuge has been the empty ballfields at Randall's Island. My mother lives in an apartment complex in Queens with mostly elderly residents. There have been many COVID-19 deaths there. My brothers and I have not visited her since mid-March, to reduce any risk of infection. One of my warehouses is in Queens. This is the epicenter of the crisis. We have had


our challenges with personnel and concerns for our personal safety. In May, my wife was to return to practicing medicine in her office. I was worried about her taking the subway and having such close contact with her patients. But I am grateful my family is well, my business is solid and I am in regular contact with so many supportive Columbia friends.

Mark Simon '84 is with his family in New Jersey. Mark and Melissa's son, Oliver, will attend Washington University in St. Louis in the fall. Fellow CCT class correspondent Dennis Klainberg '84 is well and sent me a hilarious Pass-over greeting. Former dean James McMenamin is with his family in the Catskills. Mike Schmidtberger '82 and I have been trading emails about former CU basketball player Patrick Tape '20 (who didn't play ball his senior year) committing to

their apartment and Esme is doing her school work remotely.

**George Wilson:** "I'm fine and sheltering in place with my wife and two kids at home in Merrick, N.Y. My daughter Anna is continuing her sophomore college education at Villanova via online classes. My 85-year-old mother is in an assisted living home in Spring Lake, N.J., and my 82-year-old father-in-law is five houses away. These are the people we worry about the most. I've been working from home since March 24. The world we knew will not be the same going forward."

**Kai-Fu Lee:** "I started Sinovation Ventures, a technology VC in China, after leaving Google China. I wrote the bestselling book *AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order* in 2018. I am married with two daughters, who graduated from Columbia and from NYU."



**Core Haiku**

**Homer and Shakespeare.**  
**Took Lit Hum with Peter Awn.**  
**Forever grateful.**

— Mark A. Momjian '83

Duke. I sat next to **Andy Gershon** at one of the CU basketball games in February. He shared with me a great story about how he played as a student in a scrimmage with Columbia great Alton Byrd '79 (who was also at the game). Larry Momo '73, former CC director of admissions, is staying with his wife, Jane BC'73 in Woodstock. **Gary McCready** and his wife, Jane, are home with their son, Charlie, in New Jersey. Their other kids are fine, too — Ben is working in Seattle and Maddie is in Montreal. **Eric Wertzer** is freelancing in NYC and applying his Ken Jackson thinking cap on a NYC history project. Marc Ripp '80 and his wife, Shari, are in New Jersey. Marc's daughters, Brandi '12 and Elena SEAS'14, are staying in Manhattan. **Eric Lee Epstein;** his wife, Michele Shapiro; and his daughter, Esme Epstein, are sheltering in place in their East Side apartment. Esme was taking her second half of her junior year studying in Rome and had to leave early. Eric and Michele are working hard in

**Andrew Abere GSAS'91:** "After more than 20 years, I returned to Columbia to teach in the Department of Economics in Spring 2020! I was pleased and honored to have been asked to teach a senior seminar, in which each student writes a senior research paper as part of the course requirements. I am teaching a seminar, 'Economics of Antitrust and Regulation,' which is a hot topic given all of the focus on big tech these days. I am consulting on antitrust and other matters as an economist (and sometimes testifying as an expert witness), and have been able to leverage my professional contacts to bring in guest speakers. I have had an attorney who represents a number of tech firms and an economist heading up policy at Google talk with my students and help generate ideas for topics for their papers. I last taught at Columbia in the late 1990s, and I have found much has changed but much has also stayed the same."

**Frank Antonelli:** "Living in Charleston, S.C., it is hard to get



together with my Columbia friends, but I try to keep in touch with **Kurt Lundgren** and **John McGivney** as often as possible. My company, Empire Sports Management, specializes in the golf industry, and we recently have been expanding our agency division. We currently represent six PGA Tour golfers, five LPGA golfers and 12 Korn Ferry golfers. We manage golf courses and celebrity golf tournaments and recently restarted our golf course design and construction company, Maverick Golf Design.

"Family has had a great year and I am proud of my three sons — Joey graduated from South Carolina with a degree in sports management and works for Empire Sports, Frankie is a junior at Clemson in the Clemson Life program and Patrick is a senior in high school and was named All-State in basketball and Region Player of the Year — undecided on college as of this writing. My wife, Debbie, is a basketball analyst on ESPN and recently was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. Hope to get a chance to see more Columbia friends in the future and make new CU memories!"

**Jon Ross** recently moved back to New York City from California, where he lived in Venice for 33 years. Jon runs the nonprofit Micro-Aid International, which rebuilds permanent houses for disaster-survivor families around the world. Since he's been back in the city, Jon has reconnected with **Paul Saputo**, **Eric Gardner**, **Marty Avalone**, **Bob Montay SEAS'83** and **John Albin '84**, and has added **John Bonomi** to his Board of Directors. He adds, "I have always been in close contact with **Gardner Semet**, who lives in New Jersey; **Bob Kahn**, in New York City; and **Bob Gamiel**, in White Plains, N.Y."

Through the years Jon has reached out to other classmates with less effect: "I once was working in Yangon, Myanmar, when **Barry Obama** was there, and I sent a message, through the embassy, that I would love to get together and chat about our days at Columbia. I never heard back."

Jon says the Columbia community has been incredibly generous in its support of his humanitarian organization, which he founded 10 years ago to address a need in disaster response: "staying focused

on people whose homes were destroyed, after the world's attention has moved on." Jon reports that because of their generosity he has been delighted to catch up with **Kevin Chapman**, **Ed Joyce**, **Steve Coleman**, **Mike Melkonian '84** and me. "It's an amazing way to reconnect with our old friends — through helping people," says Jon. Through the years, other Columbia grads have sent words of encouragement. "When I'm out in the field rebuilding houses in third-world disaster zones, it's nice to know Columbia classmates have my back."

To see what Jon is up to, and to support rebuilding houses for disaster-survivor families, check out [microaidinternational.org](http://microaidinternational.org) or [@microaidinternational](https://www.instagram.com/microaidinternational) on Instagram.

**Kevin Chapman** recently finished narrating the first two books in his current crime-thriller fiction series as audiobooks. You can listen to Kevin reading his audiobooks, *Righteous Assassin: A Mike Stoneman Thriller, Book 1* and *Deadly Enterprise: A Mike Stoneman Thriller, Book 2*, by picking one up on Audible or via Chirp, Nook, Google Play or Kobo. Anyone who wants to review the audiobook can contact Kevin via his [website](http://www.kevinchapman.com) to get a free download. Book number 3 in the series, tentatively titled *Lethal Voyage*, is in production and should be available in 2021.

Our Columbia friendships are priceless. They are far more important than any financial losses. We have a shared Columbia experience and history that spans more than 40 years. It is truly a privilege and honor to be your class correspondent. Be safe!

## 1984

**Dennis Klainberg**  
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Novel coronavirus be damned! Nothing can stop the Class Notes for CC'84. Many thanks to the following contributors for setting down their quarantines to send good news:

Roar, **Adam Van Doren**, Roar! He writes, "I continue to teach art at Yale to undergraduates and enjoy the yin-yang of splitting time between hectic Manhattan and the quiet confines of the leafy campus life in New Haven. I am also working on a book about historic landmark sites

of the American Revolution, which will combine my paintings of these sites, along with personal essays on each one. Otherwise, I am pleased to report that my daughter, **Abbott '19**, is working in a law firm. She and I enjoyed Homecoming last fall and the crushing 44–8 defeat of Penn. My son, **Henry**, is finishing up at Wesleyan with a focus on philosophy, and my wife, **Charlotte**, is busy as a real estate broker with **Corcoran**."

Welcome back, **David Gormley**! He writes, "After graduating from the College, I worked in brokerage and banking on Wall Street and was recruited by Citibank. After a few more years with Citi on Wall Street, I was asked to join our international staff. I was posted in Asia and Europe for the next 20 years. Lots of good travel with regular trips back to the head office. Later, I became CEO of a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and then joined Franklin Templeton. Happy to be back in the United States with my wife and two sons."

Mazel tov, **Jeffrey Rashba**! He writes, "I guess any entry to these notes should begin with the classic term learned in CC (or was it Lit Hum?): 'Oy gevalt!' I practice corporate law in Israel with a focus on international transactions on behalf of technology and life science clients. A professional highlight of the past year (January 2020) was delivering lectures in Osaka and Tokyo on Japanese-Israeli joint ventures. I also enjoyed some terrific getaways with my wife, **Hedy**, during the past year (during the old days when one could pick up and travel), with perhaps our favorite being a week in February in Lapland, Finland. Cold, but as cool and fun as anything we have ever experienced on a vacation. On the homefront, we were recently blessed with our first grandchild (a boy, **Lavi Gavriel**). We are still trying to adjust to the novelty of having a boy in the family, after raising five daughters."

The life of **Doug Lindgren**: Where "Moonlight in Vermont" meets "Georgia on My Mind." He writes, "Like most people around the country and much of the world, my family and I are hunkered down and practicing social distancing as the COVID-19 crisis continues. My daughter, a graduate of Dartmouth and now working in the executive search business, is down from NYC

until it is safe for her to return to her apartment. My son will be doing his senior spring semester at Dartmouth online from here. While it is great to have both of them around for a while, I am sorry that the COVID-19 crisis has turned their lives upside down.

"I retired from full-time work in 2017 and now limit my professional activities to board and advisory work. My wife is an independent consultant. This has opened up the possibility of living almost anywhere. For now, we have decided to split time between Sea Island, Ga., and Norwich, Vt. If you are going to limit your exposure to the outside world, Sea Island is not a bad place to do it. I hope the virus will be under control when we head back up to Vermont this summer. In the meantime, we are staying close to friends and family via text, FaceTime and Zoom. In fact, we have a pretty good group of CC'84s holding weekly virtual cocktail parties at this stage."

Call the Mounties! APB on **Bob Zecker**! He writes, "I was back in NYC for Christmas and attended a house party concert in The Heights. Terrific concert performed by various Columbia alumni who used to rock the Postcrypt, as well as the Marching Band scene. Performing were, among others, **Mark Ettinger '86**, **Wally Griffith**, **Steve Greenfield '82** (who exclaimed when he saw me, 'All the way from Nova Scotia!'). In the audience were **Steve Holtje '83** and moi. I also ran into **Madeline Frisch BC'86**, who starred in **Barnard's Gilbert & Sullivan Society's *The Pirates of Penzance*** as **Mabel**. (Sadly, **Dennis 'g(tb)2' Klainberg** was not in attendance.) This was a wonderful musical event, but also a touching example of the Columbia, and human, spirit. May we all stay safe and be there for each other in these stressful times."

**Tom Gilman** had to cut short a monthlong Southwest road trip with his wife, **Sue Corwin Gilman BC'85**, due to you-know-what, but not before encountering a rattlesnake, an earthquake, a mountain lion and the Bees. Tom's company, **IDEXX**, offers a four-week sabbatical after 10 years' service, which Tom has recently achieved. The trip started in Phoenix and continued to Arizona's Tucson, Ajo and Yuma, then to California's San Diego and Los Angeles; the rest of the trip





was to include Palm Springs, Death Valley and Las Vegas, but that will have to wait for another day. The rattlesnake encounter was at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and Tom reports that it definitely gets your attention. The earthquake was in Yuma (the world's sunniest place — who knew?), was a 5.5 and added a little extra excitement to the cocktail hour. The mountain lion was spotted in Yuma as well, in a park near the Colorado River — a magnificent and rare sight. And in another magnificent and rare sighting (no?), Justin Bieber appeared in a purple Porsche heading up Mulholland Drive in Los Angeles. All in all, a great trip, and here's to finishing it very soon!

At the time of my e-blast requesting updates, I was saddened to learn that playwright Terrence McNally '60 died from complications related to COVID-19. As one of the CC'84 flag bearers at Class Day 2013, I was privileged to hear him speak lovingly of Columbia and his career. You can find his complete speech at [college.columbia.edu/node/4816](https://college.columbia.edu/node/4816). Given our current state of affairs, here are some of his more prescient remarks: "Besides, good or bad, advice is easy. I don't have a lot for you. Be nicer to people, wash your hands more frequently, count to a 100 at least twice before asking someone to marry you. Be useful, keep your word. Reread that email before you hit the 'send' button. Don't put compromising photos of yourself on Facebook. That's about it." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."] Stay healthy, all.

## 1985

Jon White  
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Not that long ago, I had anticipated writing this column immensely. We would be gearing up for reunion, we would be getting tons of updates from classmates (whether attending or not) and it would be an exciting time to reminisce ... so much for that. How things have changed.

More importantly, my greatest hope is that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Too many of us will know someone directly impacted by COVID-19. My wife, Allison, had a presumed case, but fortunately it was relatively mild and she recovered without issue. Thank goodness the rest of my family has avoided other health issues to date.

Unfortunately, the economic impact of the virus, short- and long-term, remains potentially bigger than 9-11, the 2008 recession or Hurricane Sandy, and so many of us have been, and will continue to be, impacted by the consequences. As of late April, NYC's shutdown has so dramatically impacted hospitality, retail and tourism that it may take many months, or even several years, to see a full rebound. My own business world has been significantly challenged, and has never been so uncertain.

More than ever, this is a great time to reconnect and touch base. I encourage everyone to use this column to share how you are doing, how you are surviving and how you are adapting during this crazy time.

I was particularly interested in our classmates who are overseas. **Sebastian Sperber** LAW'88 has multiple global hotspots covered — his daughters are in NYC, and he and his wife live in London. He says, "We are all fine. London is really quiet and shut down; very eerie."

**Michael Nagy** kery resides in Saint Paul de Vence, France, just outside of Nice and not far from the Italian border. He writes, "It just so happens that I had been skiing in the Italian Alps with my 8-year-old son, Aslan, in late February, just as the coronavirus became a big thing in Italy, and in Lombardy in particular. Thankfully, we were not affected directly and remain healthy."

"Working as an independent in the tourism and trade show fields,

though, has meant a slight reduction in activity (he says, with mild understatement, as the entire season is likely canceled ...). So I focus on what is important (as I have done heretofore): My family/my son, his well-being, home schooling, tending our garden, planting a vegetable garden and preparing the pool for a new season, as well as focusing on some projects that have been on the back of my mind for quite some time. I am of the optimistic sort and so remain cheerful, and try to spread that cheer (which may soon be more difficult to achieve, since we will likely be required to wear masks in public). I steer clear of doom-and-gloom thinking and do a lot of cooking and baking, often with helping hands. Keeping one's head and hands occupied is quite therapeutic. Knowing your goals is even more so.

"Also, I trusted Aslan to cut my hair a few days ago. It is nice and short and a bit uneven, but I am happy and Aslan is ever-so-proud to have done a good job. The Monty Python tune, 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life,' is running through my brain, and bringing a chuckle to my lips several times each day. We've gone through tough times before and we shall manage this time as well."

Kudos to **Tom Vinciguerra** for his article in the Spring 2020 issue about Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Collins CC 1907 ("[Around the Quads](#)"/"[Hall of Fame](#)"). This article spoke to me in multiple ways: first, COVID-19 has delayed the baseball season, and second, my mother has a summer home in Copake, N.Y., a small town in New York's Columbia County, immediately north of Collins's native Millerton, and whenever I drive home from there, I pass by the local park, which has an arch proudly noting Eddie Collins Memorial Park.

For those who don't live in NYC, you might have seen that the city's economy has been particularly impacted with near-total closings in tourism/hospitality, retail and dining. You might also know that, like at many universities, Columbia's Commencement was canceled, classes were moved online and the schedule and format for the fall semester is uncertain.

And, as you might now know, our reunion was not held this June. Thanks again to **Heather Paxton** for continuing to update our "[Columbia](#)

[College, New York Class of 1985](#)" Facebook page (if you haven't seen it, please check it out — some great stuff there!), and to **John Phelan** and **Leslie Smartt** for their leadership on the Reunion Committee, which will I hope be reconstituted once plans are finalized.

So, with everything going on, your updates through this column are an excellent way to share what you are doing and what you are seeing. Stay safe.

## 1986

Everett Weinberger  
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I'm writing this in early April, during a rough period for New York City, the United States and the world. My hope is that by the time you read this, things will have gotten better with a clearer path to recovery and rebuilding. I already know that this disease has caused us to split life into "before" and "after" COVID-19. My heart goes out to anyone in our class who has lost a family member or friend to the coronavirus.

**Jack Crane** and **David Skoog** sadly reported that their Ruggles/EC roommate and lifelong friend **Frans Kramer** passed away from a heart attack on March 6, 2020. They write: "An expat Dutch national fluent in four languages, 'Tio' Frans led a rich, nonlinear life that included founding an airline in Venezuela as well as multinational ventures in consulting and real estate. Never married, Frans divided his time between Florida and France's Loire Valley when not traveling the world. His lifelong passion was cinema, but he was also a gifted pianist, photographer and cook. He was deeply read even by Columbia standards, a first-class intellect, but never at a loss for entertaining conversation in any company. Kids adored him. Even now, we half expect our dear brother Frans to pop up again somehow, bearing some delectable wine, exotic delicacies and an amusing tale, with photos, of his journey to the afterlife! *Nunc dimittis*."

Jack formed a private Facebook group to share memories and photos of Frans with his family and friends. Email me if you are interested in participating.

**Michael Goldfischer** wrote about another FIJI-organized event



Submit  
Your  
Photo



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct).





that I hope got in under the wire for safe dates to host a party. "On March 7, 2020, at The Stanhope House in Stanhope, N.J., the second annual musical festival, Winterpalooza2, was held featuring three bands fronted by CC'86 alumni. The good Doctor and The Outside Band were the opening act, **Jeffrey Ammeen** and his band Charlie Don't Surf kept the joint rocking and **Sherman Ewing** and his band were the evening's headliners. It was a rousing night of music, friendship, family, FIJI Purple and Columbia Blue. Also in attendance were Arthur Ajzenman '83 and his wife, Lisa; Dominic DeCicco SEAS'84; Andrew Upton '85; Dave Madoff '85 and his wife, Donna; Dan Upperco '85; **Rick Wolf** and his wife, Debi; **Patrick McGarrigle**; **Jack Merrick**; **William Golden**; **Addison Armstrong**; **Steven Marder**; Mark Foss '87; Joe Policastro '87; Stephanie Scherby '87; Kyra Tirana Barry '87; and Lynne Lada Azer '87.

"The annual concert's proceeds are donated to a local charity, and this year's recipient was The Seeing Eye, in Morristown, N.J. This nonprofit is America's oldest seeing eye dog breeder and trainer, providing independence for the visually impaired. We raised \$5,000 to name a puppy Jerry, for musical legend Jerry Garcia, who is our collective musical muse.

## 1987

**Sarah A. Kass**  
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In the midst of the chaos of 2020 thus far, **Rebecca Turner**'s good news shines like a beacon. She writes, "In November, I released my third album, *The New Wrong Way*, an eclectic selection of songs I (mostly) wrote, with beautiful backing vocals by **Sue Raffman**. You can find it for sale, download and even on vinyl (!) along with my other projects at [rebeccaturner.net](http://rebeccaturner.net).

"During this crazy time, my husband/bass player, Scott Anthony, and I have kept busy producing a [YouTube variety show](#), *Omniana*, a combination of music, poetry, segments on interesting stuff around the house and local pets up for adoption, and a tip bucket for a different charitable contribution each week. Friends have called it calming, eccentric and

zen! It's provided some structure and been a good creative outlet."

Stay safe and healthy! And don't forget to send me your updates!

## 1988

**Eric Fusfield**  
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I am writing this column in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which finds me self-isolating at home with my family, like so many of us. The situation here in the Washington, D.C., area is no doubt less stressful than it is for our many classmates who still live in New York, but we'll all continue to worry for the safety of our communities until the threat has diminished. I've been speaking by text and FaceTime with my former Morningside Heights roommate **Lee Haddad**, who is living in Israel under the same circumstances my wife and I are: juggling work with full-time parenting responsibilities, while occasionally and apprehensively venturing outside for groceries and other essentials. The fact that technology and shared experiences (good and bad) can bridge the divides of geography and time so easily is a fitting reminder of how interconnected our alumni community, and our world, are.

**Thomas Cornfield** works in finance in the Detroit area. "I am a financial planner with MassMutual — my team is doing business as Generational Financial Group. We help individuals, families and businesses to achieve their financial goals," he writes. "I am based in Michigan but have clients all over the country. My hobbies include playing guitar, bass and other instruments, and doing artwork."

**Bill Seeley** SOA'92 is a newly published author. "The book is a monograph on neuroscience and the arts, *Attentional Engines: A Perceptual Theory of the Arts*," Bill says. "It was published in February.

"In other news, I am alive and well and live in Maine with my wife, Christine Donis-Keller BC'91," Bill continues. "I teach in the philosophy departments at UNH Manchester and the University of Southern Maine. I returned to Hudson Bay by canoe last summer after a 21-year hiatus. I led a 12-day expedition

down the Attawapiskat River from Lansdowne House in early August. Other than that, I've just been skiing, hiking and writing!"

I hope that by the time this column is published we'll all be living under happier and freer circumstances. In any case, feel free to be in touch and let me know how you're doing. Stay safe, everyone.

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
emilymilesterry@me.com

I'm writing this column in the midst of the worldwide pandemic that has touched all of us in every way. As of this writing, my mother and my business partner have fallen ill with COVID-19. So, like so many of you, I am filled with worry and my days are consumed with trying to see a path to normalcy.

I am dedicating this column to everyone in our class — all of you —

friends. I presume to speak for all of us when I say my greatest hope is that you and your family, friends, health, businesses and other means of livelihood, comfort and concern emerge unscathed and with the opportunity to return to full vitality. This column reports past news and some what-ifs, something the class correspondents are not supposed to do.

Exciting news for cookies lovers! In January, **Nancy Pak** BUS'95 was named CEO of Tate's Bake Shop. You're not familiar with Tate's cookies and other deliciousness? Guess you'd better get yourself to the grocery store (or order for delivery if we're still living in a COVID-19 nightmare) and try them. While Nancy's family finished the school year in Maine (she'd been VP and general manager of Tom's of Maine for the past four years), she commuted between her home in Maine and her new office/home on Long Island, where Tate's was founded and operates a brick and mortar store.

## Core Haiku



You won't get Sappho  
until she is read to you  
in the ancient Greek

— John Vincenti '90

who are engaged in selflessly helping others, supporting your families and fighting against the virus every day in any way we can. I also thank the wonderful people in the Alumni Office, as well as the editors at *CCT*, for their unrelenting support of our community and for always providing new ways to bring us all together. Until our next issue — be safe, everyone!

## 1990

**Rachel Cowan Jacobs**  
younggrache@hotmail.com

As I write this column, it's late March and we are all living through a period that is unknown in its length, scope and outcome. In this time of uncertainty, which breeds worry, fear and a reminder of what's important in life, it's been extra special to hear from classmates and

**Dan Sackrowitz** is the proud father of a bar mitzvah boy, who celebrated his special day in Israel in February. While there, Dan caught up with **Peter Neisuler**, and texted me a photo as proof.

An update from **Noreen Whysel**: "I now teach two classes at CUNY City Tech in Brooklyn: 'Web Design I' and 'UX/UI Design.' My husband, Brett GSAS'99, now teaches full-time at Borough of Manhattan Community College. We are in the process of converting courses to fully online for the rest of the semester due to the pandemic. We had been thinking of moving downtown or to Brooklyn and had our apartment on the market for a while, but took it off [in mid-March]. We are hunkering down on the Upper West Side for the duration.

"More work news: I work with Mucktracker, an edtech startup,



which hosts an online classroom for exploring disinformation in media. Online and news literacy is a good combination right now. I'm also converting the Information Architecture Conference, a three-track, 60-talk, 10-workshop event to digital. It's as hard as it sounds. I recently hosted a workshop on open geospatial data at Studio@Butler on campus and plan to post a write-up on Medium as soon as I have a better feel for my online classes.

"Both kids are home from college. My youngest took the train from New Orleans, which is particularly hard hit by the virus. My oldest left everything at her dorm at Sarah Lawrence in Westchester, another hot spot. My sister's son in Michigan recently had a second child, making me a two-time grand-aunt. I'm already missing our 30th reunion."

And so are the rest of us.

In what might become a social norm, a crowd of classmates got together on Zoom one night in late March. Attendees at this "meeting" full of memories and storytelling were **Lisa Dabney, Craig Nobert, Dean Temple, Kirsten Mellor, Karena O'Riordan, Ben Cosgrove, Jeremy Manning, Jenny Thompson Harvey, Scott Gauch SEAS'90, Sean Ryan, Hayley Jares Kondon, Margaret Flynn Robison** and the Columbia College Alumni Association's outgoing president, Michael Behringer '89.

We should see the list of CC'90 alumni whose children will join the Class of 2024 in the Winter 2020–21 issue. As we wait in suspense, I know of at least one super excited incoming Lion. How many others are out there?

In my last column, I reminisced about our 25th reunion dinner in Low Library. Sadly, the 30th reunion isn't happening in June, but I do hope we can all reconnect in person sooner, not later. Stay healthy in body and spirit, friends.

## 1991

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

Greetings for summer, Class of 1991! Please send in updates about your spring and summer to cct@columbia.edu — your classmates want to hear from you! If you are interested in



Several members of the Class of 1990 caught up over a Zoom video chat during the coronavirus pandemic.

taking on the role of class correspondent, feel free to reach out to us at the email address at the top of this column for more information.

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
olivier.knox@gmail.com

No news this time, CC'92. Be well, and let's stay connected. Send me a note for the Fall issue.

## 1993

**Betsy Gomperz**  
betsy.gomperz@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates! I am writing this issue's Class Notes on April 18. I am noting the date for three reasons: 1) We've just completed our fifth week of remote work and school in Massachusetts and throughout most of the country, 2) it snowed today in Massachusetts and 3) it is my younger son's 12th birthday. It is a memorable day!

By the time you read this column, life will have, I hope, begun returning to "normal" (whatever that might be). This period has been such a strange time in so many ways — difficult for many of you, and filled with silver linings for others. A huge THANK YOU to our classmates working on the front lines

as doctors, nurses and health care professionals working with patients in hospitals; those in government, helping protect our communities; and those working toward medical breakthroughs to get us better testing and vaccines. Among the doctors, I've only had the chance to talk to **Sandi Johnson Murray**, an ER doctor in Connecticut; she mentioned the exhausting work and how very, very sick the COVID-19 patients she sees are. Her husband, Rob, is also an ER doctor facing the same stresses while they juggle looking after their two boys.

Thank you, Sandi, Rob and everyone else for what you are doing to help so many during this stressful time!

I don't think I've heard the word "Zoom" so much since we were kids watching the show on PBS. But in this new world order, I am so thankful for Zoom, where I've been able to partake in lots of regular, mini-Columbia reunions! In addition to hearing from Sandi, I've had a blast Zooming and catching up with **Robyn Tuerk**, who is riding things out in Boca Raton, Fla.; **Ali Towle**, who told me about her recent safari in Tanzania; **Jenny Hoffman**, who is in Washington, D.C., but is looking into where she can move to beat the curve and homeschool her teenage kids from a beach on the Mediterranean; and **Patti Lee**, who is moving back to San Francisco after living in Marin County, Calif.,

for 10 years. During this time of social distancing, Patti has taken up e-foiling, where she can be out on the water and a safe distance away from others.

I also caught up with **Julie Davidson Hassan** and **George Hassan**, who are hunkered down in Mendham, N.J., where they are grateful for five-acre zoning in their town, which leaves lots of outdoor space for their two boys, Aidan and Gavin, to run around without seeing anyone else. In catching up with both George and **Kevin Connolly**, I heard that George, Kevin, **Matt Thompson**, **Chad Moore**, **Joel Cramer**, **Chris Collins SEAS'93** and **Craig Collins** met up in Boston for a mini-reunion! The event that brought them together was a visit to the Great Marsh Brewing Company in Essex, Mass. Chris and Craig's older brother, John Collins SEAS'89, recently opened the brewery.

This past winter, I had the good fortune to run into **Greg Lang** while at a U14 ski race at Suicide Six in Pomfret, Vt. I had last seen Greg at our reunion in 2018 and before that, when we both worked at Credit Suisse First Boston in the late 1990s. It turns out both of our eighth-graders are part of the Okemo Mountain Resort team (my older son, Thomas, and Greg's daughter, Diane) — but girls and boys race separately, so we hadn't run into each other before! Greg is



the CFO at Oceanview Holdings/Bayview Asset Management and has been there for two years. He is married to **Grace Hyun Lang**, who is a pediatric urologist at NYU Langone Health. They live in Manhattan with their two kids.

I also heard from **Paul Sangillo** LAW'96, who recently released his first novel, a legal thriller titled *The Golden Prison*. The book is about a young attorney at a top New York law firm who finds himself in the middle of a murder mystery with a suspicious boss (the write-up on Amazon is much more exciting than my brief summary!). Paul is the deputy general counsel at Benjamin Moore & Co. and lives in Sparta, N.J., with his wife and family.

Finally, before we all had to quarantine in our homes and could still go to sporting events (boy, do I miss sports!), **Thad Sheely** was able to pull off a mini-Columbia reunion in Atlanta. Thad said it was a confluence of events that started with **Susan Schmeidler Blum**, who lives in Atlanta with her husband and two sons, wanting to go to a Hawks vs. 76ers game, since she's from Philadelphia. Thad also knew that **Buck Jenkins** lived in Atlanta and coached Susan's kids in basketball (Buck is a teacher and coach in Atlanta), so he got Buck to attend the same game. Thad has also been in touch with **Omar Sanders** BUS'99 (who works at Vanguard and lives in Philadelphia) and talked him into coming to town for the game. And finally, **Alan Freeman's** son goes to Elon University in North Carolina, so he and his son

road-tripped to Atlanta to join the fun. Thad reports that it was a great evening and fun to catch up with this crew (which included Joe Hill '94). For those who are curious, the Hawks won, 127–117.

That's all for this column. Stay healthy and be safe.

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
lak6@columbia.edu

The CC'94 column is taking a hiatus this issue, but we will be back for the Fall issue! Best wishes for the health and safety of all members of the class.

## 1995

**Janet Lorin**  
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I hope this finds everyone and their families safe and healthy. It's been such a strange time. While we are disappointed about and understanding of our 25th reunion not taking place in June, I'm sure we all are sending empathy to the Class of 2020, who can't experience a traditional Class Day or Commencement, or even say goodbye.

At least I can share a little bit about what had been on tap for Columbia Reunion 2020, which will be rescheduled at some point. **Ross Venokur** had graciously agreed to tell us about his experiences in filmmaking. Despite being in self-isolation in his home in Ojai, Calif., Ross is remotely directing the CG-animated feature film *The Silk Road Rally*, which he also wrote. The film is in production in Montreal, London and Mumbai, and is scheduled to be completed in mid-2021. In the meantime, Ross's company, EDH Animation Co-op, which he founded in 2018 with his wife, Lenore Quinonez-Venokur, continues to try to alter the entertainment industry paradigm by producing content in true partnership with artists, writers and creators from across the animation spectrum.

**Dan Petroski** of Massican Winery had graciously donated wine for our Saturday dinner.

**Demetre Daskalakis** has also tentatively agreed to do a talk. Now,



Columbia College and Barnard friends met up in April 2019 to celebrate Sima Saran Ahuja BC'96's birthday. Included in the photo are Sameer Ahuja '96, Neil Kothari '96, Parag Gandhi '96, Raina Gandhi BC'97 (née Bhatt) and Sima Saran Ahuja BC'96.

we are all proud of his important work as deputy commissioner at NYC's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Thanks to all the frontline healthcare workers doing their difficult jobs, and the spouses and families who are supporting them.

I hope to see you all soon. Please consider sharing an update!

## 1996

**Ana S. Salper**  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Dear classmates, I write these notes from New York as we are approaching the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area. Living in this dystopian existence has been nothing short of surreal ... and scary. I hope you and your families and friends are well and staying safe. Working for a healthcare organization during this pandemic has made me truly appreciate the power and value of human courage and commitment.

I hope by the time of publication of this issue that this pandemic will be behind us. For now, I personally salute and applaud all of the healthcare workers at my workplace, NYU Langone Health, and everywhere around the world who have risked

their lives to save others. You are tremendous. Thank you.

Now onto the notes. **Parag Gandhi** moved to Baltimore with his spouse, Raina Gandhi BC'97 (née Bhatt), and their daughters, ages 13 and 16. Raina works at American University's Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C., while Parag is developing a subspecialty practice in oculofacial surgery, Maryland Eye & Face. Parag also does humanitarian mission trips, continuing in the Columbia tradition of global outreach.

In May 2019, he worked in Ulaanbaatar and Khovd, Mongolia, on a surgical and teaching mission trip through Virtue Foundation (NYC) to perform reconstructive oculofacial surgery on adults and children screened from various regions of the country. During the mission trip, he discovered that Dr. Abraham "Eddie" Barth '77 would be the anesthesiologist on his surgical cases. Parag writes that it was a pleasure working with him and exchanging stories about the Core Curriculum and their Columbia years. He also explored the beauty and remoteness of western Mongolia.

Parag adds that he caught up with other CC'96ers in April 2019 on a beautiful rooftop lounge in NYC to celebrate a milestone

Stay in  
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:  
[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).



birthday of Sima Saran Ahuja BC'96. Among the attendees were **Sameer Ahuja, Neil Kothari, Parag, Raina** and other friends from the Columbia/Barnard family and their spouses. Parag says that it was a memorable reunion of college friends and a chance to celebrate a dear friend whilst sipping cocktails and enjoying views of the city that made it all happen!

**Hussein Rashid** writes that his first co-edited book has been published, *Ms. Marvel's America: No Normal*, and it is about Marvel Comics's first Muslim superhero to headline a series. Hussein says that while it is written for academic use, it is really approachable for fans.

**Jeremiah Crowell** has been working in the film industry since he left Columbia. He started out sweeping floors at a sound studio in San Francisco, then became an assistant cameraman and then a director of photography for a decade, making all kinds of projects. Jeremiah was nominated for two Emmys during that time. He became a director, then a writer, and now is a producer and showrunner. He says that he tries to make projects that help us see our shared humanity so that we can create a world we all want to live in. Two years ago, Jeremiah executive-produced and directed the series *The Last Defense* for ABC, which is about two likely innocent people on death row. Most recently he was showrunner and executive producer on *Pandemic: How to Prevent an Outbreak*, a series for Netflix that he hopes has brought people some good information and a little hope during this time. Jeremiah

has two sons, ages 10 and 11, and lives in Park Slope.

That is all I have for you now. Stay safe and be well. I look forward to seeing you on the other side of this pandemic (early call to join me at our 25th reunion in 2021!). I leave you with these fitting words:

*"There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return."*

— Nelson Mandela

## 1997

**Kerensa Harrell**  
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope you are all doing well and staying safe amidst the worrisome coronavirus pandemic. It is my pleasure to present the following updates, which I received in January.

**David Simmonds and Claire Fenton** have been married for more than 20 years and live in Texas, where they are joyfully watching their son and daughter (Patrick, 15, and Hannah, 13) grow into young adults. David shares: "After 10 years of building my commercial real estate company, I've recently implemented a major rebranding as we enter our second decade, with plans for further growth and expansion both in Texas and nationwide. Claire continues to love her work in secondary education. Exciting times in Austin!"

**David Scharff** shares: "A couple of decades ago, I moved to a Tibetan Buddhist retreat center, where I spent a couple of years learning and practicing that path. Then I moved down to Los Angeles to bring my 'altered' perspective to the entertainment industry. I spent almost a decade as a writer, composer and producer. Since then I've spent the last decade as creative director of the nonprofit grant-making Annenberg Foundation, including its beloved Annenberg Space for Photography.

"Parallel to all of my professional pursuits, I have continued to practice and teach meditation. Although peripheral to my career, it has always remained a central part of my life. In October I started Compassion Unlimited. Now, with my new venture, I'm pulling my two passions together: providing creative consulting to clients in need of my brand-



David Simmonds '97 and Claire Fenton '97 have been married for more than 20 years and live in Texas.

ing mind and eye, and providing mindfulness and meditation training in the workplace for both non-profit and for-profit organizations that see the value in making mental and emotional health a priority.

"Bringing together both sides of my mind — a mind that benefited greatly from the spirit of inquiry and discovery fostered by Columbia College — feels incredible. No more division between my two passions; now both portions are on my plate, ready to be devoured!"

"And on a personal note, two years ago I married my partner of 16 years, Pablo."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, as I sit here wrapping up this column, it is late March and everyone is worried about the pandemic that has just arrived. I hope you all are in good health in this frightening time.

Sadly, my last remaining grandparent (maternal grandfather) passed away on March 23, 2020, at 88. He was a wonderful grandfather — good-natured, kind-hearted, fun-loving, sweet, friendly, down to earth, simple, jovial, dependable, loved his family and never missed a family get-together. I was lucky to have had him in my life for 46 years. I keep trying to remind myself that he enjoyed a long, full life and died peacefully of old age. But I am still heartbroken to have lost him. He lived about an hour's drive away

from my home in Florida, so I was able to visit him frequently, up until his last three weeks of life, when the skilled nursing center where he was residing went on lockdown, due to an abundance of caution regarding the pandemic — no visitors were allowed in an effort to shield the elderly residents from potential exposure.

My final memory of him was on March 2. At that time I did not know that it would be the last time that I would see him. I was assuming I would simply come back the next week. He was propped up in his bed, on oxygen, and the nurse let me feed him his puréed dinner, since he was too weak to lift his hands to his mouth. After I finished feeding him, I sat down beside him and chatted with him for a while. My daughter, Amara (3), was with me, as usual. She and I were sharing a big chair, and I placed her tiny toddler hand on top of his hand because I thought he might find it comforting. She then sweetly kept her little hand on his for a long while as she sat watching a movie on his television. He seemed to really like her resting her hand on his, and he was smiling down at her with love and adoration in his eyes. I'm glad my daughter got to know her great-grandfather and make some memories with him in the last three years of his life. He was a wonderful man and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

**Columbia College Alumni on Facebook** 

[facebook.com/alumnicc](https://facebook.com/alumnicc)

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.



I'd like to end with a few lyrics from a favorite song of my grandfather's, from the 1940s when he was a kid growing up in Kalamazoo, Mich. This sweet jazz tune also happens to be a favorite of my daughter's:

*"A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H  
"I got a gal in Kalamazoo ...  
"Years have gone by  
"My, my, how she grew ...  
"Hoppin' on a flyer, leavin' today ..."*

Blessings to all, and please do send me your updates. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

## 1998

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 1998. I hope that by the time this issue is available, we've gotten over the worst of the pandemic and are back to whatever new-normal lies ahead. On behalf of our class, a heartfelt thank you to every classmate who's a healthcare provider, hospital staffer or educator, or works in any other capacity that helped keep us safe and sane during this time.

But now for a slightly less formal Class Notes column.

**Dennis Machado** chimed in on our Class of 1998 Facebook page: "I've fulfilled my lifelong dream of being able to sit at home for six weeks straight and not have to commute to work or drive to a single kids' event the entire time. Hope everyone is staying safe!"

**Sarah Kawasaki** added: "I will add to Dennis's well-thought-out vision for the Class of '98 notes, *Reality Bites*-style, by saying that after two weeks of treating patients in clinic for opioid use disorders, I am looking forward to the next month of telecommuting from home, crushing it *sans* pants. My kids are similarly crushing it."

**Kei Ishidoya** mentioned that she has lived in London for quite a few years (and reminded us all that "pants" in the United Kingdom doesn't mean trousers).

**Lea Goldman** started a podcast, *Hazmat Hotel*, in which she interviews experts from various fields about the impact of the coronavirus. One of her episodes features **Beth Roxland**, a bioethicist and former

executive director of the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law. You can find *Hazmat Hotel* on Spotify or Anchor.fm.

My husband, Hans Chen '97, and I continue to live in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., where we've been sheltering in place with two teens and one tween thrilled with their at-home curriculum of baking, embroidering, tying knots and watching their parents' favorite childhood movies. Kidding aside, our oldest son, Elias, has graduated from high school and will attend Williams College in the fall.

## 1999

**Adrienne Carter**  
**Jenna Johnson**  
adieliz@gmail.com  
jennajohnson@gmail.com

No news this time, but best wishes for the health and safety of CC'99 and your loved ones. Be well, and let's stay connected.

## 2000

**Prisca Bae**  
pb134@columbia.edu

I hope that the members of CC'00 are safe and healthy. I'm sorry that we didn't have reunion this spring to catch up in person. Best wishes for your health, and I hope that we can connect soon.

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi all, it's such a strange time right now. I write this from my house in Los Angeles, under quarantine, and you, like me, might be looking for as much human interaction as you can get. Sure, there's all those Zoom calls I do for my job, but I miss real social interactions with friends so much. It makes me truly wistful for my Columbia experience. Which brings me to the column... I was in a writing rut, and then I reached out to about a third of you with a blind note, and I got the following back. Don't worry, I'm coming for the rest of you soon. Be in touch!

**Sofia Berger** SEAS'02 lives in NYC "with my husband, Alex, and our daughters, Francesca (3) and Catalina (8 months). I still hang out regularly with all my favorite CC'01 ladies from Carman 11!"

**Katie Champion Land** is building a house in Tulsa, which should be done by summer! She took her two daughters to campus last summer.

**Vanessa Bouché** (née Gerace) writes: "I can't believe it's been almost 20 years since our Columbia days! My husband, Noel, and I have two daughters. I'm a professor of political science at Texas Christian University and, most recently, co-founder of Savhera (@savherawellness), an essential oil wellness and lifestyle brand that provides sustainable livelihoods to survivors of sex trafficking."

**Sara Batterton** BUS'07 writes: "We are all good here in Washington, D.C. **Michael Kerin** SEAS'01 and I had our second child last September, a boy named Noah. Big sister Sadie (4) is proud and doting. Sadie had her first meaningful trip to NYC in December and briefly set foot on College Walk to see the holiday lights. She hopes to return again soon to see the statue of Alexander Hamilton — she's learned a lot about him in her short life and is very proud to say Mom and Dad went there, too.

"Michael is a director of real estate development for The St. James, a growing network of sports, entertainment and wellness complexes. The company's flagship venue is in Springfield, Va. (outside D.C.), with a second facility already in design for outside of Chicago. I am an independent consultant supporting a variety of strategy and operations projects in the K-12 education sector. We'd love to make sure we get together with fellow '01ers in D.C. (or visiting) this year!"

**Samantha Earl** has been living in Philadelphia since 2016 with her husband, Frank, and kids (George, 6, and Maud, 4). Sam earned a master's in city planning from MIT in 2012. "I am a consultant for World Monuments Fund (where I worked for five years in NYC) on an historic preservation project at the Forbidden City in Beijing," she writes. "My kids go to Germantown Friends School and we live with our dog, Lulu, and cat, Bob, in the art museum area."

**Elissa Curtis** JRN'06 is deputy director of photography at *The Wall Street Journal* in New York. She had

her second daughter, Lenox, on January 22; Lenox joins big sister Hunter (2), whose birthday is January 23.

Congratulations, Elissa!

**Devin Fitzpatrick** reports: "I moved out of NYC after 20 years and now live in Baltimore with my husband, William, and my daughter, Caroline (3). I started my own company, CDF Consulting, which specializes in e-commerce and digital marketing advisement, so I still get back to the big city for visits and to see many of my friends from CU: **Meghan Sweeney Dalton-Orbin**, **Jane Jhun**, **Brynn Saracusa** and **Tori Brennan**. It is great meeting back home in Baltimore, as **Tom Nelson** and **Heather Nelson** are here, too, with their kids."

**Janelle Archondo** (née Joaquin) resides in Roslyn, N.Y., with "my husband and my kids, Graydon (11) and Dia (9). Spent the first 15 years of my career in private banking and transitioned to commercial banking (middle market) at Bank of America four years ago."

**Andrew Danberg-Ficarelli** writes: "I live in South Boston, but return to Columbia every December for the annual crew alumni banquet in Low Rotunda with my '01 varsity teammates. I finished my graduate degree and postgrad residency to become a pediatric dentist in 2012 at Tufts Dental, and last year opened a practice in Chestnut Hill, Mass., *Boylston Street Dental Group*."

**Dr. Rachel Goodman** is the Elliott Associate Professor of Biology at Hampden-Sydney College. She reports: "I love teaching my small biology classes at a liberal arts college with a core curriculum similar to that of Columbia. I'll be department chair next year, and the following year we move into a new \$40 million science building! I've recently been doing research on pathogens in herpetofauna in Virginia and Hawaii, and will start working in Ecuador this summer."

**Elaine Shen** lives in NYC, "in fact in the same neighborhood as Columbia! It's weird to see all those students and even some of the same professors," she writes. "I work at *The New York Times* on a team that does training on new story forms and reporting/workflow. My kids are 8 and 3, which I know are the golden years of the parent/child relationship. It's just sometimes hard to keep in mind when we're rushing to school



and my 3-year-old insists on wearing two jackets and walking backwards.”

**Marisa De Saracho Lewin** “lives in a Seattle suburb, and is a stay-at-home mom to two rug rats (6 and 2.5).” She adds, “I last worked outside of the home as labor and delivery R.N. six years ago in Los Angeles.”

**Nora Abramson:** “I live in Washington, D.C., with my husband, Dave Nathan, and our sons (3.5 and 5.5 — they are big on the halves right now). I am a management and evaluation consultant to schools, nonprofits and after-school programs. I am VP of the board of Operation Understanding DC, a high school leadership program that aims to build a generation of African-American and Jewish community leaders, trained to work toward ending all forms of discrimination. My family is lobbying me for a dog and my kids are obsessed with Legos.”

**Tamara D’Anjou-Turner** writes, “I’m a psychologist in private practice and faculty at Georgia State University since 2018. I recently was a first-time guest on a podcast and planned to be a guest again in March.”

**Kjell Carlsson** is married to Huong Trieu BC’01. “We have two kids, Kat and Cato; live in Newton, Mass.; and, much to my surprise, now advise companies on artificial intelligence, which is a bit ironic because I switched from my computer science major to econ ... I got to the course on AI and thought that neural networks and heuristics were useless; I was right for just over a decade; now the joke’s on me!”

**Tim Fourteau** is an attorney with Latham & Watkins. He is a transactional attorney, working in the energy and infrastructure sector across Asia, based out of Singapore. Tim is happily married with 6-year-old triplets.

**Joe Cook** lives in Chicago with his wife and four young daughters. He writes, “I am an attorney and a major in the Air Force, currently assigned to the Illinois Air National Guard. Here are some updates on classmates:

“My former roommate **Noah Ochsenhaut** also lives in Chicago and is an AP history teacher at Lane Tech College Prep H.S. **Matt Robertson** recently came through Chicago and we met up. He lives in Virginia with his wife and son.

**Eric Allbin** was in Chicago this past spring and we were able to hang out, as well. He lives in the San Francisco area with his wife and

son. **Kimball Payne** came through Chicago last summer and we went to a Cubs game. He lives in Virginia with his wife, son and daughter. My sophomore year McBain roommate, **Avery Moseley**, is doing well, living in California with his wife and young daughter. And one of our senior year East Campus roommates, Chris Schaffer ’02, is also doing well, living in Connecticut with his wife, son and daughter.”

Thanks, everyone, for these great updates. Stay well and in touch!

## 2002

**Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
soniahird@gmail.com

Dear friends, I hope you and your loved ones are safe during these unprecedented times. I would love to hear updates on your experiences and life during the time of the coronavirus pandemic, and especially from those of you on the front lines; we thank you for your efforts. Stay safe, everyone!

**Rupal Patel’s** second venture, *Entrepenora*, a community of and for women founders and C-level leaders who are focused on getting to the top of their careers and industries, was recently featured in *Harper’s Bazaar*.

**Leonard “Lenny” Braman** was elected to the Fairfield, Conn., zoning commission. His wife, Annie Green, and their children — Gwen (6), Spencer (4) and Quincy (1) — are all doing well.

**Jeffrey Anderson** announces the birth of his third child, Jeffrey Michael Anderson Jr., born on December 22, 2019. His also has twin daughters, Charlotte and Sophia (2). Jeffrey’s father passed away on January 21, 2020; Jeffrey will continue to run the family construction company, Gryphen Services, in Southern California. He is also head coach for the St. John Bosco H.S. wrestling team; they recently took second place in at the CIF State Wrestling Championships.

**Mike Mellia** directed Tory Burch’s new fashion campaign using video compositing and special effects to create a surreal world of creative accidents.

Last year **Michelle Ng** married Christopher Reynolds; she is VP of retail merchandising at CELINE in New York City.

## 2003

**Michael Novielli**  
mjn29@columbia.edu

It’s been a challenging few months for the world, making it difficult to avoid hearing bad news wherever we go. But during times like this it’s even more important to celebrate good news and the successes and contributions of classmates. We’re all thankful to the many healthcare professionals and other essential workers for their commitment and sacrifice during this period.

Along those lines, our Senior Class President, **Kim Grant**, shared that **Anuj Mehta** was “instrumental to drafting the standards that the state of Colorado has adopted to respond to the novel coronavirus and think about the allocation of resources in an ethical, unbiased way. He has been virtually training physicians all over the state.”

Kim also updated us that “**Jill Santopolo** turned in the manuscript for her third novel. Her first book, which is set at Columbia, has been translated into more than 35 languages and was a *New York Times* bestseller. She is also an extremely accomplished publisher and has published books by Chelsea Clinton, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Sen. Kamala Harris.”

**Andy Shin** SEAS’04 continues to do incredible work in the tech space. He is now the chief technology officer of Quoteapro, “a tech-enabled marketplace that is disrupting the \$900 billion-plus recycling industry.” Prior to joining Quoteapro Andy was the CTO of GOAT, the world’s largest sneaker marketplace with more than 20 million users and 2 million shoes for purchase.

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
jmahida@gmail.com

In what has been a trying year for so many, **Hendrik Gerrits** shared this uplifting note: “I recently went through the process of anonymously donating my kidney to a stranger, who ended up being a 21-year-old woman from upstate. It was an experience not without challenges, but also huge rewards. It stands out as one of the

things I am most proud of doing. I mostly want to share about it to raise awareness that this opportunity to profoundly change someone’s life exists and that it’s available to anyone who is lucky enough to be in great health and with a solid support system. In times of stress, I’m really helped by remembering this positive and life-affirming experience.”

After a 15-year career in social impact, disaster relief, international aid, economic development and fundraising for tech-driven nonprofits, **Mischa Byruck** founded *Evolve.Men*, a life and relationship coaching business in San Francisco. He writes, runs workshops and teaches men about sexuality, consent, integrity and accountability.

**Cynthia Chen** GSAS’14 writes: “After co-founding Figure Technologies and scaling it to a unicorn in two years, I co-founded Kikoff, which helps people build credit for free so that everyone can have a path to good credit.”

**Mustafa Shafi Riffat** BUS’11 shares: “After a wonderful experience returning for my second degree, at the Business School, I met the love of my life. We have now moved right by the CU campus on Morningside Heights, with our lovely little daughter. Strolling around campus is still our favorite thing to do.”

**Molly Hartman-O’Connell** is a family nurse practitioner with the Indian Health Service in Crownpoint, N.M. She met up with Dr. **Susan Guo** PS’08 — radiation oncologist at New Mexico Cancer Center — recently at her home in Albuquerque.

Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you may be taking, events you have attended or are looking forward to or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates to either the email at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes [webform](#).

## 2005

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

Best wishes for summer during these uncertain times. We hope that you are doing well and that you and your



loved ones are safe and healthy. Thank you to those who shared their news. If you would like to update classmates, please send a note to the email above.

From **LaToya Tavernier**: “I launched a podcast, [Figure Out Your Life with Toya T](#), which aims to find the answers to some of life’s problems. Weekly, I share tips and strategies for dealing with everyday issues, from overcoming a fear of failure to dealing with ghosting. If you are looking for unfiltered advice or a good story, this is the podcast for you. It can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, SoundCloud and Google Podcasts.”

**Ling Kong** has joined Goulston & Storrs’s New York City office as a director in the firm’s Corporate Group. He brings considerable experience in a broad range of corporate transactions and financings, including venture capital investments, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, restructuring and recapitalizations to the firm. Ling earned a law degree from Boston University School of Law in 2010.

Congrats, LaToya and Ling!

## 2006

**Andrew Stinger**  
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

As we head into a summer shaping up to be quite unlike any we’ve experienced, I begin this column by saying a special thank you to classmates for taking the time to share your latest news. In a season marked by uncertainty and unease, it truly bolstered my spirits to hear of your successes, growing families and latest adventures. Some news I’m grateful and privileged to share:

**Gina Cucchiara Di Veglio** DM’10 welcomed her daughter, Vanessa Josephine Di Veglio, on December 13.

**Justin Ifill** also shares news of a growing family: “My wife, Seneca, and I had our daughter, Marielle Talia Ifill, on March 5 at 12:53 p.m. She is such a blessing and I am already singing ‘Roar, Lion, Roar’ to her on a consistent basis.”

On the professional front, **Sixiang Wang** GSAS’15 recently moved to Los Angeles to take a faculty position in UCLA’s Department of Asian Languages & Cultures.

**Jaclyn Vary** (née Matayoshi) was elected to the partnership of Calfee,

Halter & Griswold in estate and succession planning and administration.

**Sheena Claire-Ann Gibson** has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Military Spouse JD Network, serving as the governance director for 2020–22. A practicing attorney and military spouse for nine years, Claire is looking forward to this opportunity to serve the needs of military spouse attorneys affiliated across the military branches. She is also the principal attorney at her boutique intellectual property law practice, Gibson Law, in NYC.

## 2007

**David D. Chait**  
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I wish everyone in the Class of 2007 good health and the best navigating this difficult time, given the coronavirus’s impact! During these times, I hope these positive updates from our classmates are uplifting.

**Lenora Babb Plimpton** writes, “My husband and I recently welcomed our second baby, Nora Anne. Life is good here in Denver. I’m an employer-side employment law attorney at a boutique local law firm. Please reach out if you find yourself in the area.”

**Marianna Zaslavsky** BUS’13 shares, “I am joining Modern Fertility to head up partnerships. I would love to talk to anyone working at brands where we can partner on women’s health.”

**Jonah Van Bourg** shares that he “got married last May in Antibes, France, to a wonderful lady named Aurélie. We’re happily living in London.”

**Kat Dey** (née Vorotova) BUS’14’s company, [ettitude](#), “makes the world’s softest and most sustainable bedsheets, sleepwear and bath towels using its innovative CleanBamboo fabric.” Kat partnered with ettitude’s founder and CEO, Phoebe Yu, and joined as co-founder and president in 2018. “Today ettitude’s silky soft organic bamboo sheets are loved worldwide by more than 30,000 people who helped save 100 million gallons of water in 2019 by not buying cotton.” Ettitude was recently named “Best International Conqueror” in the Online Retail Industry Awards in Sydney and has been featured in *Forbes* and *Vogue* and on Goop.

Kat and her husband, Anton, welcomed their daughter, Anna, to the world in 2018. They are based in Los Angeles.

## 2008

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

CCT wishes the members of CC’08, and your loved ones, good health during these uncertain times. If you would like to share news in the Fall issue, please send us an email.

## 2009

**Chantee Dempsey**  
chantee.dempsey@gmail.com

I hope that everyone is doing well and staying safe and healthy.

We heard from **Philipp Rabovsky**: “Capital A, a new podcast I am doing about art, money and theory, is out on iTunes, Spotify and Anchor.”

Congrats, Philipp!

Please take a moment to share your news. It’s good to stay connected!

## 2010

**Julia Feldberg Klein**  
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Hi 2010. I hope all of you are safe and healthy. It was great to hear from you for this latest round of Class Notes, and I will miss catching up with our class at reunion! I hope that we get another chance to connect — virtually, or in person — sometime soon.

**Katherine Vance** shares, “My husband, Robert, and I welcomed our second son, Peter, on March 24. Eric (2) is so proud to be a big brother!”

After nearly a decade with the Department of State, including three tours as a Foreign Service officer, **Heather Hwalek** relocated to Seattle to begin work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Strategic Planning & Engagement office.

**Adam Flomenbaum** moved to Seattle with his wife to start at Twitter. He would love to connect with classmates in the Emerald City.

And from **Chris Yim**: “I never really got to say a formal goodbye to

one of the loves of my life — the Bay Area, who I affectionately refer to as ‘the yay’ (no one likes it, but who cares?). I noticed that whenever I go out of the country to someplace far away, and I meet folks who have never been to the United States, they usually know of three places — New York, Walt Disney World and California. After having lived in California, I realized just how much air time the state gets in pop culture, what it’s known for in Silicon Valley and Hollywood, and how beautiful it is. As a kid growing up in Virginia, I had dreams of living in California even though I really knew nothing about it. I applied to Stanford and got rejected; my best friend in high school asked me where I would go if I got into all the colleges that I applied to. I said, ‘Stanford — how could I say no to California?’ Mind you, I had never visited Stanford University.

“When I got to college at Columbia, I met a bunch of kids from California. While the state sends a lot of kids to Columbia, I felt like I really enjoyed their vibe. They had this quiet confidence and relaxed approach to things. While they struggled to survive in the winter and many of them got depressed, I gathered that there was something about the place they were from that formed them into the humans that I admired and liked.

“Fast forward to 2011 — I applied to a job at Google and got flown out to the Bay Area (my first time visiting). It had been a nasty winter in New York. The weekend prior to my visit, I had gotten snowed in and I couldn’t make my flight. I had to reschedule my interview, so I flew out one weekend in February. I bombed the interview and didn’t get the job, but a perk of the interview was that I got to rent a car and stay the weekend. I drove to Stanford — my first time visiting the school. It was beautiful. I stayed with college friends in Berkeley and in San Francisco. I had my first Mission burrito, went out on Polk Street and had my first encounter with Mission Dolores Park. I got to smoke weed in public, and I experienced sunshine and blue skies in February after a harsh East Coast hibernation. After my stint in the Bay Area, I realized that the weekend was probably the nicest weekend of the year. I got hooked.

“When I moved to the Bay Area in 2013, it was a surprise even to myself. I had gotten comfortable with my life



in New York, and I really liked many aspects of it. I had just started dating someone. I had great roommates. I had a routine that felt good. Then a friend asked me if I would come with him to California to start a company. Within two weeks, I packed my belongings into a tiny Toyota Yaris and we drove it across country. The day we arrived in California in March (on the 8th, in 2013), I had seen snow on the border driving in from Arizona, and I felt really hot as we snaked through Southern California on the 5. We entered San Francisco on the old Bay Bridge, which I saw deconstructed and torn down. That was the beginning of what would be and still is a beautiful relationship.

"Now that I'm back in New York, I get the question — California or New York? It's hard to think that reductively, so I would prefer to share what I love about the Bay Area. I have so many memories of the place. I lived there 2013–20, and I experienced so much of my life in there. It was the place where I started my company and sold it, which was the reason I went there. It was the place where I got to reunite with one of my best friends, and we lived there together for many years. It was the place where I lived with my partner for the first time, got married and also got divorced. The Bay Area is where I really fell in love with nature, where I learned to develop and cultivate community, where I experienced intense shame, guilt, self-hatred, compassion, anger and sadness. During the period of living in the Bay, I had my own racial awakening. This is where it began. I had my spiritual awakening, where I saw that I had the Universe existing in me. This is where I began my healing. One day, I hope to write about all these specific elements in sharp detail. I list them here to say that this is the place where so much shit happened, so I have a complex relationship with it.

"I got to live in San Francisco and in Oakland. I meandered throughout 'the city,' living in the Mission, Japantown/Lower Pac Heights and the Inner Richmond, and I stayed for a few months in the Presidio. After my breakup, I had this intense need to be in community, surrounding myself with people who wanted to say 'hi' to each other, with people who were seeking to put their roots into the earth and build friendship in a space that they could call home. I found a home on 44th Street,

called it 'La Shire,' and I reached out to a few other people who wanted to examine how they were living life and how they had a desire to align intention with action. They liked what I was communicating, and they joined me in North Oakland.

"As someone who grew up on the East Coast, the weather was truly an awesome perk. The East Coast has its hot summers, but I would say that it's almost always 55 or 60 degrees in the Bay Area. You get a few extra degrees if you live in the Mission (in San Francisco) or anywhere in the East Bay. And it's a bit hotter if you live on the Peninsula. As a non-Californian, this weather is really delightful. I eventually got spoiled and needed to experience a winter just to remember how good I had it. However, Californians tend to take for granted just how consistently the weather is good enough for you to be outside. What is outside that's so great? Air. Trees. Animals and wildlife. The wind. Birds chirping. Things in blossom. The ocean. I get sentimental every time I think about how beautiful the yay is. I can name place after place that would place a striking image of beauty in my mind — driving through the Presidio to Inspiration Point; the Headlands, where you get an immaculate view of San Francisco; the Oakland or Berkeley Hills and any one of the parks on Skyline Boulevard where you can see the expansiveness of the Bay; Tennessee Valley and the trail that takes you to the ocean with marsh and wetlands; and Stinson Beach, the beach town that has some of my favorite hiking and the drive in that will take your breath away. It's really just spot after spot.

"I guess if you live in a place for seven years, you're bound to have many memories of that place and feel incredibly nostalgic about that place. I guess if you live in a place through your 20s, when you change so much and so much of you shifts, then you'll link that physical place to something significant within you."

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell**  
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[sean.udell@gmail.com](mailto:sean.udell@gmail.com)

Hey 2011! A big update from one of your correspondents: **Sean Udell** is getting hitched! On February 13, five

days before his five-year anniversary with Jonathan Jenkins, Sean surprised his now-fiancé on the streets of Philadelphia with a sign, roses and a gaggle of the couple's Philadelphia friends. The engagement was celebrated with lots of cute-but-awkward photos, as Jonathan was still wearing his biking helmet and no one bothered to tell him to take it off. Sean and Jonathan are now in the throes of wedding planning, which is just as expensive and stressful as everyone else has claimed.

In less current (but still relevant) news, in August 2019, Sean, **Shiri Melumad** and **Roxanne Unger** all realized that they live in the same city of brotherly love. Since then, they've been getting together about once a month (usually in person, but currently digitally) to celebrate friendship over very extended happy hours. It's been a breath of fresh friendship for all three parties, who were feeling a bit isolated in their newish hometown. Sean and Shiri might actually be dating, but they insist that it's just a friendship (especially since Sean just got engaged to someone else; see earlier in this Class Notes column). Sean and Roxanne try not to talk about the hospital during the entirety of their reunions, but work-life balance is hard. Also, Shiri often encourages the hospital talk, so Sean and Roxanne don't feel too bad about it.

In other mini-reunions, **Dhruv Vasishtha** recently had to shepherd and keep **Jon Tanners**, **Javed Basu-Kesselman**, **Nuriel Moghavem**, **Sahil Vora**, **Blake Arnold SEAS'11**, **Benjamin Landy**, **Olivier Sherman**, **Ari Golub**, **Minsoo Lyo SEAS'11** and 12 others alive in the Arizona desert for **Rajib Mitra SEAS'11**'s bachelor party. He told Rajib at the end of the weekend they are now even for college.

After six years in brand marketing and communications at global luxury e-commerce leader NET-A-PORTER, **Laura Gabriele** has been commuting between Paris and London since joining LVMH in 2016 to build and launch [24S.com](http://24S.com), the luxury conglomerate's e-commerce platform. Now in her fourth year with the project as director of brand communications and now also global head of private client events and experiences, Laura can't get enough of hopping around the globe whether for work or play, and is regularly back to alma mater territory in New York. Give her a shout if you're Euro-bound

(you know, once international travel is restored).

**Gairy Hall BUS'16** recently left J.P. Morgan, where he had worked since graduating from the Business School, to join The Carlyle Group. He is focused on raising capital from institutional investors across the United States at the private equity firm, but thankfully is staying in NYC after a couple of short career stints in London and Chicago in recent years. This follows a recent return to the workforce for his father, Dr. Gairy Hall '77, who is practicing at Piedmont Healthcare and looking forward to fully retiring in the coming years.

**Caronae Howell GS'14** had a busy 2019, graduating from medical school, moving to Tucson to start her vascular surgery residency, buying a house, adopting a dog and marrying the love of her life, Paul Castle. She and Paul met in medical school and are now both residents at the University of Arizona. When they're not at the hospital, they've been exploring the desert and the mountains with their crazy dog.

And last, but certainly not least, after two and a half amazing years with Boston Consulting Group — including a promotion to project leader last fall — **Ola Jacunski GSAS'17** is shaking things up to focus on writing. She will attend the prestigious Odyssey Writing Workshop this summer (COVID-19 permitting) and pursue an M.F.A. this fall (school TBD!). Ola recently won the grand prize in the Writer's Digest Popular Fiction Awards under her pen name, Alexandra Hill.

## 2012

**Sarah Chai**  
[sarahbchai@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbchai@gmail.com)

Hi friends, I am writing this at the end of March, admittedly grappling with the ways that COVID-19 is affecting people the world over. This has been a challenging time for us all, and I hope that this update reaches you and your loved ones in good health. In the face of this adversity, let's continue celebrating our classmates' triumphs.

**Kristin Simmons** had a solo art show, *The Odds are Good, but the Goods are Odd*, at Phillips (450 Park Ave. in Manhattan) on February 29. She also recently launched a



business (lightweight, affordable statement earrings), Glitter Is the New Black. She invites you to use/share the code GOLIONS20 for a discount: [glitteristhenewblack.com](http://glitteristhenewblack.com).

Thanks, Kristin, and congrats on the art show and new business!

Hope to hear from others soon. Sending all my best.

## 2013

**Tala Akhavan**  
[talaakhavan@gmail.com](mailto:talaakhavan@gmail.com)

Summer greetings, CC'13. I hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and healthy.

**Jiyeon Han** reports: "I am back home in NYC roast-ing coffee for essential hospital workers in NYC (via 'SEND A CUP'/'#NYlovescoffee campaign')."

Harvard Business School (Jiyeon is in its Class of 2021) wrote an [article](#) in April about how after coronavirus closed down campus, Jiyeon returned home to Queens "to both complete her first-year MBA studies online, and launch an e-commerce site to help her parents' small business, Bean & Bean Coffee Roasters, stay afloat."

Be well, and let's stay connected.

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
[rsf2121@columbia.edu](mailto:rsf2121@columbia.edu)

I hope that all of you are doing well and staying safe during this time. Thank you to those who shared news!

**Dara Shapiro** (née Marans) launched a GoFundMe crowdfunding [campaign](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, "Feeding the Frontlines." In just two weeks, Dara raised \$20,000 and provided 1,200 meals to frontline workers across 18 hospitals in the New York and New Jersey regions, with a focus on community hospitals overlooked by fundraising initiatives.

On March 1, **Alexandra Svokos** was promoted to senior editor at ABC News Digital, managing daily operations for ABCNews.com. She spent almost two weeks with her staff before they all were sent to work from home, at which point the new position became immensely more complicated, but the outfits much more comfortable.

**Emily Dreibelbis** has taken advantage of all the at-home time due to COVID-19 and started a website for her latest hobby, soapmaking! She is making high-quality soap with locally sourced ingredients. Check it out and order some if you feel inspired ([fremontsoapcompany.com](http://fremontsoapcompany.com))! They have liquid soap, bar soap and candles.

**Iani Alecsiu** started an M.B.A. at Harvard last fall and finished the first year online.

This summer she plans to work on her own start-up, building a marketplace platform connecting beauty salons with customers and creating a more equitable work environment for technicians.

**Kate Eberstadt** continues to write music during social distancing. She and her sister Izzi Eberstadt BC'16 are releasing their debut album, *Pierrot*, this year as alt-pop duo Delune. Kate is also working on some theater projects and solo artist work. Follow [@updatesfromkate](#) on Instagram for more news!

After nearly five years in China, **Chris Zombik** moved home to the United States in November. He is focused on running his education consulting company serving clients across China and working on other business and creative projects.

## 2015

**Kareem Carryl**  
[kareem.carryl@columbia.edu](mailto:kareem.carryl@columbia.edu)

Hello, Class of 2015! It goes without saying that the past few months have been challenging, to

say the least. It is times like these when it is important to remember to stick together, even while we might be physically apart. This goes for family, friends, colleagues and our Columbia community. In light of that, I am excited to share some recent updates from members of the class.

**Courtney Garrity** completed the Pacific Crest Trail hike on October 12, 2019. She started the hike by herself on May 16, 2019, in Mexico and finished in Canada.

Congratulations, Courtney, on your 1,900-mile accomplishment!

**Jared Odessky** shares: "After three years at Harvard for law school, I graduated in May alongside several other CC'15ers. I'm moving to San Francisco in October to start a two-year Skadden Fellowship as an employment and civil rights attorney at Legal Aid at Work."

Congratulations, Jared!

**Bitania Wondimu** completed her studies at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine this spring! Her next step is the pathology residency program at the University of Washington.

Congratulations, Bitania!

**Ethan Edwards** SOA'18 has been a researcher at the experiments in art and technology program at Bell Labs. He connects artists around the world with cutting-edge researchers to collaborate on performances, installations and more. He has continued to make his own artwork and spends much of his time in New York City with fellow CU alumni.

**Rémi Moët-Buonaparte** recently changed her name (FKA as Reilly to classmates) and enjoys living and working in Connecticut. She loves running into CU alumni in New Haven!

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes [webform](#).

## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
[lliukrason@gmail.com](mailto:lliukrason@gmail.com)

No news this time, CC'16. Be well, and let's stay connected. Send me a note for the Fall issue.

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
[carl.yin@columbia.edu](mailto:carl.yin@columbia.edu)

**Vanessa Anyanoso** was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

**Mia Santiago** writes, "In college, I was involved with Student-Worker Solidarity and with Lucha. Since then, I've been organizing with the Columbus Freedom Coalition (I'm a co-founder) now that I live in Columbus, Ohio (I'm getting an M.F.A. in nonfiction at Ohio State). We've had some exciting news.

On MLK Day of this year, I was arrested during a peaceful protest for Julius Tate Jr., a Black teenager murdered by the Columbus police. There has been public outcry on our behalf, and recently the Columbus Freedom Coalition was named the Face of Columbus by *Columbus Alive*, part of the daily newspaper *The Columbus Dispatch*. The Columbus Freedom Coalition is a group of Columbus, Ohio-based organizers working to end all forms of state-sanctioned violence and build a world without police or prisons.'

"I was interviewed in [Columbus Alive](#). The mayor of Columbus requested to meet with us, which we did. I published an article in [Blavity](#) about my arrest.

"People can help us continue our work at [bit.ly/2zyrjDm](http://bit.ly/2zyrjDm).

"There's a lot more media coverage on the work we are doing in Columbus. We are engaged in working to free incarcerated people before COVID-19 kills many in prisons and jails."

**Elle Wisnicki** received a fully funded scholarship to UC Berkeley Haas School of Business for an M.B.A. through the Consortium Fellowship; she also received a Forté Foundation Fellowship designation. She plans to attend this fall. The Consortium selects individuals who have shown leadership in improving representation of African-American, Hispanic and Native-American individuals in global business. The Forté Foundation is specific to representation of women in business.

**Riley Jones IV** graduated from NYU with a J.D. and from

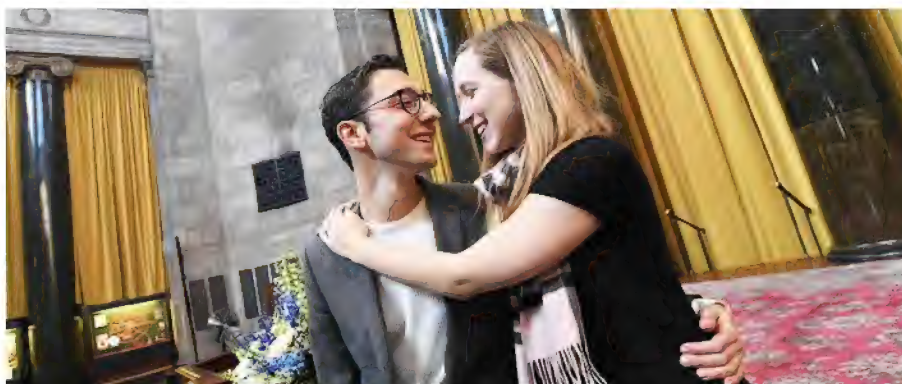


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CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).





Nathan Rosin '18 and Emily Lavine '18 got engaged in Low Library.



Briley Lewis '18 (left) and Julia Zeh '18 enjoyed some sunshine on the beach in Santa Monica.



Silas Grossberndt '18 (left), Rachel Mikofsky '18 and Thomas Nielsen '18 had a mini reunion.



Thomas Nielsen '18 (left), Daniel Porada '18 (center) and Conner Duke '18 had a fun meet-up.

Penn with an M.S. in education entrepreneurship, both this May. Riley will practice with the law firm of Duane Morris in Washington, D.C., in its education practice starting this fall.

**Ezra Wyschogrod** married Talia Wyschogrod '18 (née Rubin) on November 17 in Boston. Check out [Just Married!](#) to see a photo!

## 2018

**Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida**  
[ab4065@columbia.edu](mailto:ab4065@columbia.edu)  
[mnc2122@columbia.edu](mailto:mnc2122@columbia.edu)

**Thomas Nielsen** has been up to a lot recently! He is a legal fellow at a small Baltimore-based civil litigation firm, assisting in the authoring of a book on bankruptcy law in

Maryland. He's also deciding among starting at Stanford, Columbia and Harvard for law school in the fall. Thomas also has been engaged in a number of creative endeavors: He scored a number of short films, including two collaborations with Kevin Chiu SEAS'17 and two with Kosta Karakashyan '19. In addition, Thomas wrote two works of literary criticism — one on soundtracks to Shakespeare film adaptations, and the other on the role of music in *The Winter's Tale*, both of which have been published.

**Chase Levitt** still makes the Upper West Side his home, enjoying a similarly quiet oasis just south of Morningside Heights. A data analyst in Midtown, he spends much of his free time walking around the neighborhood parks, as well as catching up with classmates. Chase makes his way back to alma mater

several times a year, and still feels at home on a rare trip to Butler.

**Nathan Rosin and Emily Lavine** got engaged in Low Library!

**Talia Wyschogrod** (née Rubin) married Ezra Wyschogrod '17 on November 17 in Boston. Check out [Just Married!](#) to see a photo!

From NSOP to grad school, **Julia Zeh** and **Briley Lewis** still find ways to meet up even while living on opposite coasts. On her way to Hawaii to study humpback whales for her Ph.D. thesis, Julia stopped in Los Angeles to visit Briley, who is also hard at work on her own Ph.D., in astrophysics. The two enjoyed some sunshine on the beach in Santa Monica.

**Yemi Olorunwunmi** is feeling unleashed. After obtaining a start-up M.B.A. from her first job post-grad, she made the leap to being a full-time entrepreneur and venture

capitalist. Connect with her on LinkedIn or Instagram, and check out her freshly minted community organizations: [@BlackIvyBrigade](#) and [@CorporateChocolate](#).

## 2019

**Emily Gruber and Tj Aspen Givens**  
[tag2149@columbia.edu](mailto:tag2149@columbia.edu)  
[eag2169@columbia.edu](mailto:eag2169@columbia.edu)

Hi everyone. We hope that you and your families are healthy and are doing as well as possible. We would love to stay connected. If you have an update or a message to share with the class, please send them to us at either of the addresses above.

We are thinking of you and hope to be able to see each other again soon.



# obituaries

*Editor's note: In recognition of the toll taken by the COVID-19 pandemic, CCT wishes to acknowledge those in our community who have died from complications of the virus. Their obituaries are marked with a ♦ symbol.*

## 1945

**Anthony J. Borgese**, retired electrical engineer, Niskayuna, N.Y., on February 18, 2020. Borgese entered with the Class of 1945, but earned a B.S. in 1948 from Columbia Engineering.

## 1946

**Leonard L. Shengold**, psychoanalyst and expert on child abuse, New York City, on January 16, 2020.

## 1947

**William I. Silvernail Jr.**, retired physician, Dothan, Ala., on December 25, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Wiregrass Area Food Bank](#), 382 Twitchell Rd., Dothan, AL 36303, or [The Episcopal Church of the Nativity](#), 205 Holly Ln., Dothan, AL 36301.

## 1949

**Paul R. Meyer**, retired attorney, Portland, Ore., on May 1, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [ACLU Foundation of Oregon](#), PO Box 40585, Portland, OR 97240.

## 1950

**James J. Ward Jr.**, retired attorney and football coach, Sarasota, Fla., on January 30, 2020. Ward earned a degree in 1953 from the Law School.

## 1951

**John A. Handley**, retired HR executive and certified financial planner, Santa Barbara, Calif., on October 21, 2019. Memorial contributions may

be made to the [Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association](#).

**H. Elliot Wales**, attorney, New York City, on February 7, 2020. Wales earned a degree in 1954 from the Law School.

## 1953

**Eugene Goodheart**, professor of English, Watertown, Mass., on April 9, 2020. Goodheart earned a Ph.D. in English and comparative literature in 1961 from GSAS.

**Robert A. Prendergast**, retired professor of ophthalmology and pathology, Falmouth, Mass., on May 4, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [feedingamerica.org](#).

## 1954

**Howard Falberg**, retired HR executive, La Jolla, Calif., on February 24, 2020. Falberg earned a degree in 1956 from the Business School. Memorial contributions may be made to [Ner Tamid Synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Emek](#) or the [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#).

## 1955

**Daniel B. Hovey**, retired physician, Rochester, N.Y., on April 22, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia varsity rowing and mailed to Emily Maury, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4523, New York, NY 10025; or made [online](#).

## 1956

**Harmon D. Smith**, writer, and retired marketing and communications executive, Kent, Conn., on February 29, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Kentland Trust](#) or [The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research](#).

**Matthew H. Stander**, attorney, Oyster Bay Cove, N.Y., on March 1, 2020.

## 1957

**David W. Kinne**, retired physician, New York City, on March 14, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Columbia's wrestling team](#).

**Stephen E. Ronai**, attorney, North Haven, Conn., on April 30, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Bronx Science Alumni Foundation](#).

## 1958

♦ **John C. Diaz**, retired, Philadelphia, on April 3, 2020. Diaz earned a B.S. in 1959 from Columbia Engineering.

**Laurence E. Harris**, attorney, Potomac, Md., on May 16, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#) at Georgetown Law.

## 1961

**Jeffrey H. Rudell**, Jacksonville, Fla., on March 9, 2018.

## 1962

♦ **Robert S. "Duck" Dickstein**, retired attorney and former wrestling coach, Paramus, N.J., on April 4, 2020.

**Frank J. Grady**, physician, Lake Jackson, Texas, on January 12, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Backpack Buddies](#), the [Brazosport College](#) scholarship fund or the [First United Methodist Church of Lake Jackson](#).

♦ **Robert H. Weitzman**, retired pulmonologist, Linden, N.J., on April 7, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Congregation Anshe Chesed](#), 1000 Orchard Terr., Linden, NJ 07036.

## 1963

♦ **Thomas E. O'Connor Jr.**, retired law firm executive, Saddle River,

N.J., on April 7, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to The Grace Foundation of [Terrie O'Connor Real Estate Companies](#), 300G Lake St., Ramsey, NJ 07446.

## 1964

**Jerry Oster**, retired writer, Chapel Hill, N.C., on January 26, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Cure PSP, AuthoraCare Collective](#), the [North Carolina Coastal Federation](#) or the [Fistula Foundation](#).

## 1965

**Michael L. Tapper**, retired physician, New York City, on March 6, 2020. Tapper earned an M.A. in 1966 from GSAS and an M.D. in 1970 from P&S. Memorial contributions may be made to [Columbia College](#).

## 1966

**Denis P. Behan**, retired account executive, New York City, on November 30, 2019. Behan earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from GSAS in 1969 and 1977, respectively.

♦ **Stephen A. Steiner**, public relations director, Briarwood, N.Y., on March 30, 2020. Steiner earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1967.

## 1968

**David F. Phillips**, heraldic scholar, author and retired attorney, San Francisco, on March 26, 2020. Phillips earned a degree in 1974 from the School of Library Service.

**John Rice Cole**, retired professor, Greenfield, Mass., on March 12, 2020. Cole earned an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from GSAS in 1973 and 1977, respectively. Memorial contributions may be made to the [National Center for Science Education](#).



## 1971

♦ **Rafael L. Black**, artist, Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 15, 2020.

**Stephen J. Christian**, attorney and accountant, Hopewell Junction, N.Y., on October 21, 2019.

**James W. Hall**, Odenton, Md., on March 11, 2020.

## 1974

**Carl A. Yirka**, law librarian, Strafford, Vt., on April 4, 2020.

## 1978

**Donald A. Schwartz**, physician, Longmeadow, Mass., on February 1,

2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Baystate Health Foundation](#), 280 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01199.

## 1979

♦ **Donald J. Sorel**, music teacher, and church music director, cantor and organist, Pomona, N.Y., on April 7, 2020.

## 1982

**Michael S. Friedman**, attorney, editor, teacher, publisher and poet, Denver, on May 5, 2020.

**Rajan Sekaran**, investment banker, Weston, Conn., on May 21, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Connecticut Food Bank](#), [The Nature](#)

## OBITUARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*Columbia College Today* welcomes obituary information for graduates of Columbia College. We do not publish obituary information for alumni of any other Columbia University school. Please fill out the "Submit Obituary Information" form.

[Conservancy](#) or [The Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education](#).

## 1986

**Frans E. Kramer**, retired airline CEO, Val de Loire, France, on March 6, 2020.

## 1992

**James Hoge Daine**, retired bank VP and retired volunteer fire chief, Riverside, Conn., on March 2, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Sound Beach Volunteer Fire Department](#).

## Dr. Paul A. Marks '46, PS'49, Cancer Researcher and Pioneering Hospital Leader

Dr. **Paul A. Marks '46, PS'49**, who transformed Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as president and CEO, died on April 28, 2020. He was 93 and lived in New York City.

Marks was born on August 16, 1926, in Mahanoy City, Pa. He attended Samuel J. Tilden H.S. in Brooklyn, where a teacher persuaded him to apply to Columbia. Marks received a full scholarship and proceeded to P&S for an M.D.

Marks's research career spanned more than 50 years. In the late 1950s, he was the first to identify a genetic defect as a cause of hemolytic anemia, a disorder in which red blood cells are destroyed faster than they can be made. In the 1960s, he identified a genetic defect as the basis of thalassemias, a sometimes-fatal group of anemias. Marks is also credited as one of the pioneers of epigenetics: His work helped to define the way blood cells can become cancerous, and he helped develop a pioneering approach to treating cancer called "cytodifferentiation," in which abnormal cells are coaxed into becoming normal again.

After completing postdoctoral research at the National Institutes of Health and the Institut Pasteur in France, Marks joined the Columbia faculty. He was the dean of P&S from 1970 to 1973 and VP for medical sciences from 1973 to 1980, when he joined what was then Memorial Hospital. Marks was president and CEO of MSK until 1999, presiding over the unification of Memorial Hospital and Sloan Kettering Institute; he set the institution — and the field of oncology — on a more scientific course. Marks encouraged the creation of integrated medical teams to coordinate patient care, created a research and treatment center devoted to breast cancer and established the first center devoted to cancer pain management.

Marks also revamped MSK's staff by instituting a tenure system with a tough review process; dozens of scientists left between 1982

and 1986. He was known, however, for a sharp eye in recruiting talent. Marks gave researchers freedom to explore, telling them, "You will not be told to work on cancer — we know that what you work on will be relevant to cancer ultimately." However, he said: "We will expect to see spectacular research."

Marks wrote a memoir, *On the Cancer Frontier: One Man, One Disease, and a Medical Revolution* (2014), and published more than 400 scientific articles. He was the editor-in-chief of *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and *Blood*, and served as a member of presidential panels on cancer and biomedical research.

Marks was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush awarded him a National Medal of Science in the Biological Sciences category. Marks was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1996, and Columbia Engineering presented him its Michael Pupin Medal in 2016.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; children, Andrew, Matthew and Elizabeth GSAS'84; and several grandchildren.

Read more about Marks in [The New York Times](#), [The Cancer Letter](#) and [CCT](#).





## Eugene T. Rossides '49, LAW'52, Lions Football Legend, Prominent Attorney

**Eugene T. Rossides '49, LAW'52**, a star quarterback who led the Lions to an exciting victory over Army in 1947 and became an attorney who served two Presidents, died on May 16, 2020. He was 92 and lived in Washington, D.C.

Rossides, whose middle name was Telemachus, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on October 23, 1927, to Greek and Cyprian immigrants. He was an outstanding passer and runner at Erasmus Hall H.S. a decade after Sid Luckman '39 played there. Rossides recalled that Luckman told him, "You go play for Lou Little at Columbia." And that was it." He turned down two full scholarships from other colleges and accepted a partial one from Columbia.

Rossides started as halfback in 1945 and scored five touchdowns against Cornell, resulting in a 34–26 win (a four-year letter-winner, Rossides still holds the school record for scoring during a single game). He switched to quarterback as a junior, after being tutored by Luckman in spring practices. Rossides and Lou Kusserow '48 became known as the "Goal Dust Twins."

Rossides's star-making moment came when he led the Lions to a 21–20 victory over Army in October 1947; the Cadets had previously had a 32-game unbeaten streak and were unscored upon in four games. He also tied a single-game Columbia record set by Luckman and Paul Governali '43 by completing 18 passes against Army. Rossides was selected by the New York Giants in the 10th round of the 1949 NFL draft, but instead accepted a scholarship to the Law School.

After serving in the Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, Rossides began his legal career in the New York County District Attorney's office, serving in the Rackets Bureau under legendary AG Frank Hogan CC 1924, LAW 1928. Rossides went into private practice, became active in Republican politics and spent two and a half years as an assistant to the undersecretary of the Treasury under President Eisenhower.

After heading Richard M. Nixon's New York presidential campaign office, Rossides served as an assistant secretary of the Treasury in the



Nixon administration, overseeing the Customs Service, the Secret Service and other agencies. In 1972, he established the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; he inducted the first women into the Secret Service that same year.

After returning to private practice, Rossides was a partner in the Manhattan firm Rogers & Wells. In the 1980s, he worked on the presidential election campaigns of Ronald

Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and published several books on Greece's role in U.S. foreign policy and other related topics.

Rossides became a leading voice in the Greek-American community when he founded the American Hellenic Institute in Washington, D.C., in 1974. He was active in Greek and Cyprian causes and received numerous honors, including the Republic of Cyprus Presidential Exceptional Service Medal in 2016.

A stalwart alumnus and supporter of Lions football, Rossides was presented Columbia's Medal for Excellence in 1972 and a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1994. He was elected to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008 in the Former Male Student Athletes - Heritage Era category.

Rossides's first marriage, to Eleanor Burcham, ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife, Aphrodite (née Macotsin); daughters, Gale and Eleni; sons, Michael '84 and Alexander; brother, Daniel '50, GSAS'58; and seven grandchildren.

Read more about Rossides in [The New York Times](#) and on [gocolumbiaions.com](#), and view a conversation with him from [The Next Generation Initiative](#).

## Saul Turteltaub '54, LAW'57, TV Writer and Producer

**Saul Turteltaub '54, LAW'57**, a TV writer and producer known for his work on *Sanford and Son*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, *That Girl*, *What's Happening!!* and other popular comedies, died on April 9, 2020. He was 87 and lived in Beverly Hills.

Turteltaub was born on May 15, 1932, in Teaneck, N.J., and grew up in Englewood. He got his start in comedy in the Catskills's "Borscht Belt" with a routine that required him to strip his clothes and reveal a Superman costume. While at the Law School, Turteltaub created the *Columbia Law Revue* and wrote jokes for the comedy team of Marty Allen and Mitch DeWood.

Turteltaub was nominated for Emmys in 1964 and 1965 for the satirical news program *That Was the Week That Was*, and in 1968 for the first season of *The Carol Burnett Show*. He and Bernie Orenstein, who wrote together for more than 30 years, formed TOY Productions with Bud Yorkin in the mid-1970s following Yorkin's split with writer-producer Norman Lear. Turteltaub and Orenstein got three comedies

on ABC: *What's Happening!!*, *Carter Country* and *13 Queens Boulevard*, then joined *Sanford and Son* as producer-writers in 1974 and stayed through the sitcom's end in 1977. The pair also worked on the *Sanford* spinoffs *Grady* and *Sanford Arms*.

Turteltaub was congratulated for having done 23 sitcoms during his 50-year career. "You might be impressed that I've made 23 TV shows," he said, "but every producer will tell you that making 23 shows only means that you've had 23 shows canceled."

In a 2016 interview with the Television Academy Foundation, Turteltaub talked about being inspired by comedians. "I used to





admire those guys more than the singers and more than the actors because they would say something and 200 people in the audience would laugh," he said. "So it was my job when I was doing *Sanford and Son* to make 20 million people all over the country laugh at the same time and never hear it. But it was enough to hear the audience in the studio." Turteltaub was a mentor, and gave first jobs, to Richard Pryor, Garry Shandling, Dana Carvey, Nathan Lane and others.

Turteltaub's family said he was "beloved and respected by his entire community for his generosity, endless philanthropy, the giving of his time, his work with civil rights, his role as a teacher to

underprivileged or emerging writers, helping war veterans learning to write and his devotion to endless Jewish charities." Turteltaub was beloved by his CC'54 classmates, as well; he often spoke at reunion gatherings and was the featured guest speaker last year at his 65th.

Turteltaub is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shirley (née Steinberg); sons, Adam and his wife, Rhea, and Jon and his wife, Amy; five grandchildren; and sister, Helena.

Read more about Turteltaub in [The Hollywood Reporter](#), on [MSN](#) and in this issue's [CC'54 Class Notes](#) column.

## Brian Dennehy '60, Award-Winning Screen and Stage Actor

**Brian Dennehy '60**, a versatile actor known for multiple film roles and his Tony and Olivier Award-winning performance in *Death of a Salesman*, died on April 15, 2020, in New Haven, Conn. He was 81.

Dennehy was born on July 9, 1938, in Bridgeport, Conn., and grew up in Brooklyn and on Long Island. A history major, he enrolled at Columbia on a football scholarship, though, he said later, what he really wanted to do was perform with the Columbia Players. "In those days, the Players had an artistic definition of themselves which didn't allow a football player to be active," [he told CCT in 1999](#).

Dennehy's first newspaper notices were not as an actor, but as a Lion. An All-Ivy League honoree, the 6-foot-3-inch offensive lineman was picked to be one of the senior captains, but in July 1959 *The New York Times* ran an article headlined "Football Captain-Elect Drops Out of Columbia." Dennehy, who said he had struggled academically, left school to join the Marines, serving in the United States, South Korea and Japan. He completed his B.A. in 1965.

As for his acting career, Dennehy said, "I was an overnight success — after 15 years." He performed in community theater productions, mostly on Long Island, and in the mid-1970s branched out to NYC. His first mention as an actor in the *Times* was in 1976, for a showcase production of *Ivanov*. An agent who was looking for "a pro football type" for the movie *Semi-Tough* saw the show. Dennehy was cast, and small roles in movies and TV series followed quickly. He later starred in the films *First Blood* (1982), *Gorky Park* (1983), *Cocoon* (1985), *F/X* (1986), *Presumed Innocent* (1990) and *Tommy Boy* (1995).

In 1990 Dennehy received the first of six Emmy nominations, for the TV movie *A Killing in a Small Town*. He played John Wayne Gacy

in the 1992 mini-series *To Catch a Killer*, and from 1992 to 1996 played Chicago police investigator Jack Reed in six TV movies, directing and writing four. In recent years Dennehy had recurring roles in several TV series, including *The Blacklist*.

His first love, however, was the stage. Dennehy made his Broadway debut in 1995 in *Translations*; after winning acclaim for his portrayal of Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* (1999), his roles included *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (2003), *Love Letters* (2014) and *The Iceman Cometh* (2015) — his second time in the show. He portrayed Hickey in 1990 and Larry in 2015. Dennehy was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 2010.

The College presented Dennehy with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1986, and he remained a loyal alumnus. He lent his distinct voice to a [promotional video](#) for the University and was the College's Class Day speaker in 2000.

Dennehy's first marriage, to Judith Scheff, ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Arnott; children, Elizabeth, Kathleen, Deirdre, Cormac and Sarah; and seven grandchildren.

Read more about Dennehy on [gocolumbialions.com](#), in [The New York Times](#) and on [RogerEbert.com](#).



## Terrence McNally '60, Tony-Winning Dramatist of Gay Life

**Terrence McNally '60**, a four-time Tony Award-winning playwright whose work over five decades dramatized gay life, died on March 24, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. He was 81 and a resident of New York City.

Born on November 3, 1938, in St. Petersburg, Fla., McNally's parents owned a bar and grill on the beach. After it was destroyed by a hurricane, the family briefly relocated to Port Chester, N.Y., and his paternal grandfather would take him to the theater. After

the family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, McNally edited the school newspaper and literary magazine at W.B. Ray H.S.

At the College, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, McNally wrote for the Varsity Show. His Broadway theater career began in 1963 when he contributed a few lines to an adaptation of *The Lady of the Camellias* and continued with few interruptions through 2019's revival of *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*.



McNally's work introduced theater audiences to homosexual characters and situations that most mainstream productions had shunted into comic asides. In a [conversation with Philip Galanes in \*The New York Times Style Magazine\*](#) in 2019, Galanes noted, "You were a pioneer, one of the first playwrights to explore gay characters in your work — from the very beginning, in the 1960s. Did you see that as bravery?" to which McNally replied, "Not at all. I saw it as: These are people. I wasn't writing these plays in Texas. I was writing them in New York, which is sophisticated. I always felt it was O.K. to be gay in the American theater."

Across the next 50 years, McNally's plays — including *The Ritz*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; and *Anastasia* — traced the same narrative arc that many gay men were experiencing over the same period.

"Though the changes Mr. McNally wrote about were epochal for gay men, his plays were designed not to exclude. ... [they] never came across as a narrowing of theater's human focus but as an expansion of it, and by inviting everyone into them he helped solidify the social change he was describing," the *Times* obituary noted.

McNally was a remarkably prolific dramatist, with some three dozen plays to his credit, as well as the books for 10 musicals, the librettos for four operas and a handful of screenplays for film and television. He won Tony Awards for the musicals *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1993) and *Ragtime* (1998), and the plays *Love! Valour!*



*Compassion!* (1995) and *Master Class* (1996), and was presented the 2019 Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In 2018 McNally was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He was presented the 2015 Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2011 Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award. McNally was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1996.

The College presented McNally with a 1992 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, and in 2004 he was presented with Columbia's inaugural I.A.L. Diamond [41] Award for Achievement in the Arts. He was the [2013 Class Day speaker](#).

McNally is survived by his husband of 17 years, Thomas Kirdahy, and a brother, Peter.

Read more about McNally in [Take Five](#), [CCT](#) and in *The New York Times*: [how he was seen by critics](#) and an interview with [him and his husband](#) about their lasting marriage.

## Charles P. Wuorinen '61, GSAS'63, Pulitzer-Winning and Prolific Composer

Charles P. Wuorinen '61, GSAS'63, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer of more than 270 works, as well as a virtuosic pianist and a conductor, died on March 11, 2020. He was 81 and lived in New York City.

Born on June 9, 1938, the son of John H. Wuorinen Sr. GSAS 1931, the former chair of Columbia's history department, Wuorinen was a prodigy who started composing at 5. He also was a polymath with interests in fractal geometry, astrophysics, Egyptology and Chinese calligraphy. He earned both a B.A. and M.A. in music, the latter from GSAS.



Wuorinen's music showed refinement, power, technical excellence and wide emotional range, and it found a home in operas, ballets, symphonies, chamber and vocal works of all combinations and instruments.

His last completed work was his *Second Percussion Symphony*, which premiered in Miami in September 2019.

In recent years conductor James Levine became an advocate for the composer, and commissioned five orchestral works; Michael Tilson Thomas, a conductor with whom Wuorinen worked for much of his career, commissioned three; and Christoph von Dohnányi,

of the Cleveland Orchestra, one. Oliver Knussen, a composer and great interpreter of Wuorinen's works, recorded *A Reliquary for Igor Stravinsky*, which incorporated a few of Stravinsky's unpublished musical fragments (a little more than a minute of music) into a new work many years after the Russian composer's death.

Wuorinen also wrote six works for the New York City Ballet, including three scores inspired by scenes from *Dante*, and *Five: Concerto for Amplified Cello and Orchestra*. His works for the stage include operas based on Annie Proulx's novel *Brokeback Mountain* and Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*.

Wuorinen had a strong interest in earlier music, seen in such works as *Delight of the Muses*, written for the Mozart Bicentennial; *Time Regained*, which uses materials from Machaut, Dufay, Gibbons and Matteo da Perugia; and *The Magic Art: An Instrumental Masque drawn from the works of Henry Purcell*.

He received numerous awards, fellowships and honors, including the Pulitzer Prize in 1970 (for *Time's Encomium*), and a MacArthur Fellowship, and was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Wuorinen is the author of *Simple Composition*, used by students throughout the world. He lectured at universities throughout the United States and abroad, and served on the faculties of Columbia, Princeton, Yale, the University of Iowa, UC San Diego, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, SUNY Buffalo and Rutgers.

Wuorinen is survived by his husband of 32 years, Howard Stokar.

Read more about Wuorinen in [The New York Times](#) and on his [website](#).



## Heyward H. Dotson '70, LAW'76, Lions Basketball Star

**Heyward H. Dotson '70, LAW'76**, one of Columbia's finest basketball players who later became a Rhodes Scholar and a



MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

prominent attorney, died on May 1, 2020. He was 71 and lived in New York City. Dotson was twice inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame: in 2006 as a member of the 1967–68 Ivy League Champion basketball team and in 2018 as an individual.

The 6-foot-4-inch Dotson was a capable scorer, solid ball-handler and outstanding defensive player who teamed with Jim McMillian '70 and

Dave Newmark '68 to lead the 1967–68 team that compiled a 23–5 record and was ranked as high as sixth nationally.

The Lions won the prestigious Holiday Festival basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden, captured the Ivy League crown by beating Princeton 92–74 in a playoff game at St. John's and reached the final 16 of the NCAA tournament. Dotson's 32 points in an 83–69 first-round win over LaSalle is the record for a Columbia player in an NCAA tournament game.

That Columbia team, coached by Jack Rohan '53, was known for its tenacious pressure defense, and no one played harder than Dotson. "When we went into big games, teams were not ready for how hard we played," Dotson said in a 2018 interview. "Everybody knew their role and executed very, very well. They used to call us the little [New York] Knickerbockers [of the NBA], we were that good."

Born on July 12, 1948, in Lugoff, S.C., Dotson was raised on Staten Island and graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., where he

played center on the basketball team. When he came to Columbia he was converted to guard and thrived despite the transition, scoring 1,266 points on 54.2 percent shooting and averaging 16.7 ppg for his career. Dotson was a star in the classroom as well, earning Dean's List honors six times. "Basketball was a means to get him off Staten Island, but he always thought of himself as a scholar," his daughter, Kahlillah Dotson Mosley, told [The New York Times](#).

After graduation, Dotson studied at Oxford University under a Rhodes Scholarship and played professional basketball in Europe, following a path paved by Princeton's Bill Bradley several years earlier. He returned to the United States, and after an attempt to play in the NBA, graduated from the Law School and practiced with the firm of Shea & Gould. Dotson held several government positions, including one with the New York State assemblyman Keith Wright and another with New York City Comptroller's Office, and ran for the New York City Council in 2001 but lost in the primaries.

"Heyward was one of the smartest, toughest individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing. He always rose to the occasion and played his best against the best teams," said Jonathan Schiller '69, LAW'73, a member of the 1967–68 team and chair emeritus of Columbia's Board of Trustees. "He was eloquent, proud and gracious for the opportunities he had earned and what he was able to accomplish as a result. We were fortunate to be with him in life."

In addition to his daughter, Dotson is survived by his mother; sisters, Dorothy Benson and Eva Cooper; brothers, David and Donald; and three grandchildren. His wife, Mildred Dotson (née Singleton), predeceased him in 1998.

— Alex Sachare '71

View an [interview with Dotson](#) and a [collage of his Lions playing days](#), both made for his [2018 induction](#) into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

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## CORE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

In honor of the Centennial, we asked four artistic alums to take inspiration from the Core and provide a cartoon in need of a caption — one for each of our four issues this academic year. Our final installment is by author and graphic novelist Ariel Schrag '03.

The winning caption will be published in the Fall 2020 issue, and the winner will get a signed print of Schrag's cartoon. Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu) by Monday, August 10. And be sure to check out the Spring 2020 winning caption on our [Table of Contents](#) in this issue's PDF.